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Islamic Affairs

Islamic Affairs: Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 5 Jul

NC1307113796

[FBIS Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 5 July edition of the Cairo Arabic language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

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This issue of AL-SHA'B concentrates most of its reports and articles on the attack on the newspaper's Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn on Monday, 1 July, on the street outside the newspaper's offices at a time when many people and cars were going past. The headline on top of the first page reads: "Egypt is Angry."

OPPOSITION PARTY LEADERS, OTHERS CONDEMN ATTACK ON HUSAYN

A 250-word report on page one publishes the text of a statement issued by the leaders of the opposition parties in which they condemn the attack on Majdi Husayn. The statement expresses fears that such an incident can happen anytime, anywhere, and only a few meters away from a police post in the center of the city. The statement says: "Those who have signed this statement declare their extreme condemnation and denunciation of this criminal act and ask the government to exert efforts to track down and try the perpetrators immediately. The fact that the perpetrators of the incident against the chief editor of AL-WAFD newspaper were not caught encouraged the perpetrators of this incident to actually commit the crime." The report further notes that the journalists' union, chief editors of newspapers, human rights organizations, and others also condemned the incident against Majdi Husayn.

ARTICLE NOTES INTERIOR MINISTER'S FAILURE TO PERFORM DUTIES

Muhammad Hilmi Murad, deputy secretary general of the Labor Party, writes a column on page one entitled "Major General al-Alfi Has Lost the Privilege to Continue as Minister of Interior." He holds the interior minister responsible for the attack on Husayn and claims that if the perpetrators are not caught, the interior minister should resign since he would not be performing his duties of protecting the citizens from attacks and thuggery. Murad provides various reasons and pieces of evidence that the attack was carried out by the secret police, whom he believes were instructed to do so by the interior minister. He notes that AL-WAFD chief editor was attacked and the perpetrators were not caught. He also says that Husayn was previously threatened with attack if he does not stop publishing slanderous articles in AL-SHA'B newspaper against the interior minister. Murad also says that AL-SHA'B published a report about the interior minister having accepted a gun as a present from an Austrian arms company that has dealings with the Interior Ministry. He believes this is corruption and acceptance of bribery. There is also AL-SHA'B's report about the involvement of the interior minister's son in corruption scandals. All these points indicate that the interior minister is involved in, and primarily responsible for, the attack.

REPORT PROVES THAT HUSAYN ATTACKERS ARE POLICE OFFICERS

A 300-word report on page one, whose writer is not identified, provides various pieces of evidence that the attackers of Majdi Ahmad Husayn are police officers. Some of the evidence provided is that they were men who usually hung around the area as plainclothes policemen providing "cover" for Majdi Ahmad Husayn. The report provides various details about the incident and how it was carried out. It says: "Some of the details of the attack confirm the fact that the attackers cannot be anything but police officers."

LABOR PARTY FIGURES, AL-SHA'B CHAIRMAN VISIT MAJDI HUSAYN

A 20-word report also on page one says Ibrahim Shukri, chairman of the board of AL-SHA'B newspaper; Hilmi Murad, deputy secretary general of the Labor Party;

and Labor Party Secretary General 'Adil Husayn visited Majdi Husayn at his home where he is recuperating from the attack and discussed the new stance evolving from the attack.

'ADIL HUSAYN ACCUSES AL-ALFI OF ORDERING ATTACK ON HUSAYN

'Adil Husayn writes a 200-word article on page one entitled "Crime Cannot Get to This Stage." He notes that there are so many important and major developments in Egypt and the region such as Netanyahu coming to power, the Arab summit, and President Mubarak's positive response to cancel Law 93. Yet, the interior minister lives in a world of his own, Husayn says. He notes that everyone knows that Majdi Husayn's crime is that "he published facts about corruption among members of the interior minister's family." He reviews some of the conflicts between al-Alfi and Majdi Husayn and then adds: "Then came the story about the attack. Here also, how is it logical that a gang volunteers to beat up this same defendant is a sheer coincidence? And what sort of gang is this that carries out an operation of this kind in broad daylight without fearing that it will be caught?" He wonders how al-Alfi manages to keep his position as interior minister when he knows nothing about orders issued to his officers to arrest Majdi Husayn. "If he knows nothing about organized gangs that beat up a political rival of his, does this not mean that he should be relieved of his post?" Husayn argues. "That is if he does not know. If he does know, the catastrophe is even worse." He closes his article by calling on President Mubarak to resolve this matter.

MAJDI HUSAYN BIOGRAPHY PUBLISHED; FIGURES CONDEMN ATTACK

Page two publishes a 4000-word biography of Majdi Husayn by Khalid Yusuf. The biography reviews Husayn's political background and activities, and how he ended up in politics. He is quoted at the end of the biography about his near-brushes with death during his career.

Pages three and four publish various reports citing journalists, Islamic ulemas, politicians, artists, athletes, and human rights organizations condemning the attack on Majdi Ahmad Husayn and asking the authorities to make sure such attacks do not happen again.

WRITER HAYKAL TELLS HUSAYN: I CANNOT BELIEVE IT HAPPENED

Page one publishes a 50-word report on a phone call between writer Muhammad Hasanayn Haykal and Majdi Husayn in which Haykal reportedly tells Husayn: "Did this actually happen, Majdi? I cannot believe it happened. This is a very serious matter." It seems Majdi Husayn had an appointment with Haykal to discuss the latter's new book, and he phoned him to apologize for not being able to keep the appointment because of the attack.

MAJDI HUSAYN HOLDS NEWS CONFERENCE ON ATTACK, AL-ALFI

Page eight publishes a 1000-word report by Jamal Imbabi on a news conference Majdi Ahmad Husayn held after he was attacked. Husayn notes that his fight against corruption will continue. He accuses the interior minister of using the internal security forces for his own personal interests, for protecting his children and their concerns, and for attacking those people who oppose him, like Husayn himself. All these measures cost the state a great deal of money. He then describes the incident of attack on him, how he believes that they were police officers due to the intelligence information they had at hand, which only the police have access to. He notes that the objective of the attack was "to terrorize him." He says he was also threatened by phone previously. To conclude the conference, Majdi Husayn "calls on President Mubarak to intervene and dismiss the minister, not only because he attacked him, but for all the violations he has committed so far. He warned of the dangers of these attacks, and that they might turn into common practice in Cairo."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD CONGRATULATES ERBAKAN ON BECOMING PREMIER

A 50-word report on page eight notes that Mustafa Mashhur, the Muslim Brotherhood general guide, sent a cable of congratulations to the new Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan. He offers his sincerest congratulations in his name and on behalf of the Muslim Brotherhood to Erbakan on becoming prime minister of Turkey.

'ADIL HUSAYN LECTURES ON MARTYRDOM, ARAB SUMMIT, OTHERS

Page 11 publishes a 1000-word report on a speech delivered by 'Adil Husayn at a rally organized by the Doctors' Association at the headquarters of the Medical Profession's Trade Union in al-Sharqiyah Governorate. The rally was attended by Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al- Banna, secretary general of the Lawyers' Association. 'Adil Husayn discusses various topical issues, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, nuclear armament among regional powers, martyrdom operations among Muslim youths, and others. He notes that Iran has probably acquired a nuclear bomb since the collapse of the Soviet Union as a result of its proximity to the former Soviet republics.

On martyrdom, he highlights Israel's concerns about this matter which were manifested in the convention of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit. He demands the immediate release of detainees from among the members of the Islamic movement. He also demands the expansion of democracy. He speaks about the reality of the Islamic movement now, saying "victory will certainly come, and those who delude themselves into thinking otherwise need to wait a little for God's victory." On the Arab summit, Husayn says: "The most important result of the summit is the fact that resistance of the occupation by force was considered a legitimate right. This constitutes strong backing of the mujahid movements."

'ADIL HUSAYN DISCUSSES ISLAMIC TRENDS IN SUDAN, IRAN, TURKEY

Page five publishes a 5000-word article by 'Adil Husayn in which he discusses Egypt's relations with Sudan, the Islamic revolution in Iran, and the coalition between the secularists and Islamists in Turkey. He starts his article by discussing the Arab summit which convened recently in Cairo, noting that there was great U.S. and Zionist opposition to the convention of this summit. Husayn commends Arab, in particular Egyptian, defiance of this opposition. He reviews the rapprochement between various Arab states as a result of the summit, such as between Jordan and Syria, Syria and Iraq, and Egypt and Sudan, and dwells on the latter.

Husayn expands on a few points regarding the conflict between Egypt and Sudan, saying that the press made too much of the conflict. He points out that the conflict serves U.S.-Zionist designs and harms Sudan, and more so Egypt. He also highlights the fact that relations with Sudan have been deteriorating for quite some time now, even before the Islamists took over power there in 1989. On terrorism, Husayn says: "During the years of the recent crisis between Egypt and Sudan, for example, our severe attack on the Sudanese Government has been based on the fact that the government of Sudan exports terrorism to Egypt. Never once did anyone point out that the center of the 'terrorists' who are planning to blow up the whole of Sudan is in Cairo. These double standards reflect the notion to the Sudanese that Egypt allows itself to do things which it attacks others for. Therefore, the Sudanese are asking: Where is the cordiality and exchange of security?" Husayn writes: "From the political perspective, I believe there is a great deal we can learn from Sudan."

He proceeds to discuss the current Islamic government in Sudan, which he says "instills fear in the hearts of the U.S.-British- Zionist alliance, but it is not logical for this development to frighten the Egyptian Government also. We should study in all honesty what Islamic rule in Sudan has achieved. If we do so, we will see that their system offers much for us to learn from." He expresses anger at the fact that some ignorant writers in Egypt described Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front in Sudan, as a gang leader, when in fact he is a great Muslim scholar with a steeped political background. Husayn advocates "positive interaction with the Islamic experiment in Sudan" which would develop the north and south sides of the Nile valley.

'Adil Husayn then moves on to the subject of the Islamic Republic in Iran. He notes that if relations between the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries on the one hand, and Iran and Iraq on the other remain tense, this would provide a way in for the U.S.-Zionist alliance to infiltrate the GCC countries. He says: "The GCC countries are asked to resist foreign occupation and reject being used as a pretext for aggression on and threats to the Islamic republic in Iran." Husayn then lists some points of information about Iran. He says that just because Iran is a Shiite country, Sunni Muslims should not spurn it. He praises democracy in Iran which has benefitted from all the modern systems of democracy while retaining the Islamic structures. Husayn describes the economy of the country, which he believes has made miraculous strides toward development, particularly in view of the low international price of oil. Iran's economy has moved toward self-reliance and local resources. He also discusses Iran's growing military power. He reviews the various weapons and equipment, including warplanes, tanks, missiles, etc. which Iran has bought or developed since the war with Iraq ended. On Iran's nuclear power, Husayn says: "The Iranian Government denies owning or attempting to acquire nuclear weapons. But according to U.S. sources, Iran has 200 nuclear scientists and 2000 researchers in various nuclear fields." He notes that the U.S. Administration has sought to cancel many of Iran's deals with other countries to establish nuclear reactors in Iran, but the latter has managed to steal or secretly buy two nuclear warheads. On Iran's combat ability in the case of a war against it, Husayn notes: " If the U.S.-Zionist alliance decides to strike Iran, it will not be a picnic for them, God willing. If they use warplanes, Iran's air defenses are capable and effective." Husayn adds that Iran has the most dangerous weapon of all: "The party of God has soldiers distributed in all parts of the world, particularly in the heart of the United States. Do you now see why Clinton speaks about Iranian 'terrorism', and about a plan of 40 measures to combat it?" He advises the Egyptian Government to reconcile with Iran in order to confront the U.S.-Zionist alliance.

The third country Husayn expands on is Turkey, noting the geographic, political, and other importance this country has for U.S. and Western interests. He also cites the Welfare Party's program on relations with other countries, particularly to strengthen relations with the east and south, rather than the West. He expresses the opinion that there is a huge grey area of politics in Turkey between the secularists, represented by Tansu Ciller's True Path Party, and the Islamists, represented by Necmettin Erbakan's Welfare Party. The people in this grey area are slowly, but surely being won over by Welfare Party, and the future of Turkey will be theirs. He expects the Welfare Party to succeed in improving the economic situation in Turkey, as well as resolving the conflict with the Kurds.

Husayn concludes his part about Turkey with the following: "This Turkish system of Islamic reform represents valuable experience for us in Egypt, and in all similar countries. It is a lesson for all the parties be they those who support the government, the Islamists, or the national opposition. Ataturk's Turkey was the scene of a fierce battle against Islam, the scale of which Egypt has not known. Thus, polarization was extremely severe between the Islamists and Westernized secularists who completely denied their history and culture. Until this moment, the latter constitute a large part of the masses and their parties got the majority in the free Turkish parliamentary elections. Nevertheless, it has been proven that emerging from the crisis is possible through a subtle formula of cooperation among rivals." He wonders about Egypt with the following: "Isn't cooperation between the Islamists and non- Islamists in Egypt easier, and doesn't it overcome many of our difficulties and strengthen our internal front?" He asks all parties to contemplate this experience, and appeals to God to guide the Egyptians to the correct path.

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Said To Refuse Meeting With Netanyahu Adviser

TA1607100396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday refused to meet with Dr. Dore Gold, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's adviser. PA sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that 'Arafat decided so because he did not think Dr. Gold intended to bring a new message from Netanyahu. Today the PA will also decide on a possible meeting between Yasir 'Arafat and Foreign Minister David Levi. Levi's office yesterday announced that such a meeting was being prepared. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem has the details:

[Begin recording] The meeting between Dr. Dore Gold and 'Arafat was set for 2000 [1700 GMT] in Gaza yesterday, a senior PA source said. Gold wanted to meet 'Arafat prior to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's departure for Cairo for a meeting with President Mubarak. When 'Arafat understood that Gold did not intend to bring a new message he canceled the meeting. 'Arafat did not want Netanyahu to score points from the meeting and tell President Mubarak that there is progress in contacts with the PA, as it were. According to the same source, at his first meeting with 'Arafat, Gold said that Israel would act to improve the economic condition of the residents of the territories in return for the PA's fight against terror. 'Arafat is not a small child, the senior Palestinian source emphasized, and Netanyahu should understand it will not be only he who will decide the level and content of the meetings. The Palestinians, too, have a say in the matter. The source believes that the cancellation of the meeting will teach the prime minister a lesson and he will understand the message. At the same time, the PA does not rule out another meeting with Dore Gold and a meeting with David Levi.

At noon, Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Nabulus where the decision will be made. One thing is clear: 'Arafat scored points in the Palestinians' and possibly also others' eyes after canceling the meeting with Dr. Gold. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Warns Against Outbreak of 'New' Intifadah

JN1507204096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jul 96

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman, the Council of Ministers secretary general, warned against opening the door to struggle and an outbreak of a new intifadah if Israeli arrogance continues. This came in a speech he delivered on behalf of President Yasir 'Arafat during a ceremony marking the 29th anniversary of the Popular Struggle Front at al-Shawwa Cultural Center in Gaza this evening.

Minister 'Abd-al-Rahman demanded of Netanyahu's government to demonstrate more rationality and to review matters. The Council of Ministers secretary general stressed that the Israeli proposals on Hebron are rejected in part and parcel. He asserted the need to implement what was agreed on regarding Hebron, in letter and spirit.

'Abd-al-Rahman considered the settlements as illegal and void, saying that settlement expansion exercised by the Likud government aims at torpedoing the peace process and that the National Authority will not agree to deal with this issue. The Palestinian Government's secretary general added that the airport, the port, the crossings, and the safe corridors are arteries vital to the Palestinian people and the National Authority. He noted that the authority will discuss these issues as extreme priorities during the negotiations.

He said that the Likud's procrastination in starting these negotiations will backfire on the entire negotiating process. 'Abd-al-Rahman stressed the National Authority's adherence to a comprehensive and just peace, noting that the Israeli Government is close to disavowing what has been agreed on.

For his part, Dr. Samir Ghawshah, minister of labor and secretary general of the Popular Struggle Front, stressed the need for national unity and for a comprehensive national dialogue to establish the state of Palestine with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Dr. Ghawshah, who thanked the audience, called for a negotiating strategy based on the Palestinian people's inalienable rights and the adoption of a higher political point of reference to administer the negotiations.

The ceremony was attended by Communications Minister 'Imad al-Faluji, members of the Legislative Council, representatives of political forces, and representatives of Arab and foreign countries to the National Authority.

Palestinian Affairs: PFLP's Hawatimah Warns of New Intifadah

TA1607110296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 Jul 96

[Report on a "special" telephone interview with Nayif Hawatimah, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, DFLP, in Damascus, by correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem in the studio; date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The previous political echelon in Israel approved Nayif Hawatimah's entry into the autonomous areas a few months ago, but he has not arrived yet. Taysir Khalid, one of his deputies and a member of the organization's politburo, was the person who negotiated the terms of Hawatimah's arrival with the Palestinian Authority [PA] on Hawatimah's behalf. Hawatimah asked for a senior position, for the possibility of free movement through the territories and border crossings with a VIP card and bodyguards so that he would not be harmed. Yasir 'Arafat told us, Nayif Hawatimah told me in a special interview from Damascus, that Israel is not prepared for this. [passage omitted] Matters are in the hands of the occupation authorities. They have prevented the fulfillment of the basic conditions regarding my safety and freedom of movement so far.

In reaction, the Israeli security elements say that there is no reason Hawatimah cannot enter the autonomy boundaries, and that they are unaware of a change in the decision by the previous political echelon. The security elements also deny that the PA asked for a VIP card or any special terms for Hawatimah. It is not the first time that 'Arafat has used Israel as a pretext to lead his people astray, they said. I asked Hawatimah whether he was willing to have a relationship with the new Israeli Government. This government, he said, has gathered all the hawks: Sharon, Refa'el Eytan, and Yitzhaq Mordekhay; this government has presented a plan that closes all doors to peace negotiations by opposing the principle of land for peace. The Likud's policy of force in the past resulted in a seven-year intifadah, he said. [passage omitted]

If the right-wing government continues with its policy of imperialism and land usurpation, the Palestinian people will answer it. They will get back to the streets and launch a new intifadah. This is the weapon they are left with. Are we at a deadlock then, I asked him. His answer: The ball is in the Israeli court, and it should change its policy.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Receives Message From Clinton

JN1507203096 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat received a message from U.S. President Bill Clinton affirming his and his country's support for the peace process and for Palestinian rights. In his message, the U.S. President pledges to continue support for the peace process, stressing his constant position on it. The president received the message during his meeting today with Edward Abington, U.S. consul general in Jerusalem.

Palestinian Affairs: Arab Countries Urged To Halt Normalization With Israel

JN1507201296 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism and antiquities, urged Jordanian King Husayn and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to ask Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to stop the usurpation of lands and expansion of settlements. In a statement to our correspondent in Bethlehem, the minister urged the Arab countries to halt the process of normalization with Israel until Tel Aviv's government recognizes the national Palestinian rights and stops the confiscation of lands.

Palestinian Affairs: New Opposition Palestinian Alliance Reportedly To Be Formed

JN1507130696 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 15 Jul 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—Sources in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have voiced indignation at the fronts' exclusion from a meeting the leaders of the 10 opposition Palestinian factions held in Damascus on 7 June. The sources told AL-MAJD that the meeting which was attended by the leaders of only eight factions and to which the leaders of the PFLP and the DFLP were not invited, paves the way for the exclusion of the two fronts from the alliance of 10 Palestinian factions and endangers the unity of the opposition forces in the Palestinian arena.

Sources close to the eight factions said they do not rule out the formation of a new alliance of opposition figures and forces without the PFLP and the DFLP which have joined 'Arafat and become part of the self-rule institutions.

These sources told AL-MAJD that the eight factions decided to form a delegation to inform the PFLP of their rejection of the memorandum on national dialogue it submitted last week and to communicate to it their great displeasure with the return of PFLP Assistant Secretary General Abu-'Ali Mustafa to the self-rule area.

The sources said the alliance of 10 Palestinian factions has served its purpose and that a new alliance of opposition forces will be formed, an alliance that will respond to the needs of the future. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has been tasked to draft the new plan for an alliance so that it may be discussed this August.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Activist on Differences Within Movement

MM1507085996 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Jul 96 p 22

[Interview with Shaykh Abu-Musamih, Hamas member, by Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] Before the Israeli elections a number of contradictory statements were attributed to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in Palestine and in the diaspora on the issues of suspending military operations and resuming dialogue with the Palestinian Authority [PA]. To what extent could that contradiction be described as a split within Hamas?

[Abu-Musamih] I can assure you that Hamas is one body inside and outside the occupied territory. It has its shura [consultative] institutions, through which it draws up its policies and decides its priorities. One other fact is that the movement believes in shura as a commitment and therefore fully permits all its members to express their views and ideas. Undoubtedly, there are some different ideas on some essential issues such as military action, analysis of the nature of the coming phase, and where the Islamic movement's interest lies in relation to the Islamic nation's prime cause of Palestine in the light of international, regional, and local changes.

Hence the contradictory statements which appeared in the media and which the hostile media tried to exploit and exaggerate. We know that the media are one of the most important instruments of conflict in this day and age, if not the most dangerous.

Thank God, the movement is capable of overcoming any misunderstanding or crisis inside it or outside it, God willing. Through objective criticism and self-criticism we can surmount any negative aspect and contain any contradiction that does not pass through the official and shura channels.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] But can it be said that there is unanimous agreement within Hamas in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to stop military action?

[Abu-Musamih] First let me explain one fact, which is that the military body is completely separate from the politicians and the men of the media. That happened after the major blow to the movement in 1989, when it was headed by Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, may God protect him.

Objective and realistic assessment led to that total and complete separation. That, without doubt, has negative and positive aspects and it is a phenomenon not unknown to many people. It sometimes has negative repercussions.

Actually, there are differences of opinion on the question of stopping military action in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, or abroad. That is a natural and healthy sign in any shura movement.

There can be no doubt that the differences in the concepts and analysis of reality, the experiment and its assessment, and the strategic vision, have an important effect on the differences of opinion and ideas.

But whatever the differences of opinion and ideas, there is only one decision which is binding on everyone. We are one movement and have unified decisions which are made through the shura institutions.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] In view of the Israeli election results, the victory of Likud, and the formation of a right-wing goverment under Netanyahu, how does Hamas view these results and are changes expected in the movement's course and the broad outlines of its policy?

[Abu-Musamih] My view is that the movement of history or any society is not determined by individuals or heroes. It is determined by the will of the people, the main factor.

A study and examination of the Israeli election results would clearly show that Israeli society moved to express the nature of its structure, its cultural heritage, and its most extremist Zionism, and to show that the Hebrew will is not in favor even of the Oslo peace, which does not even fulfill the minimum rights of the Palestinian people. We, as a movement with a strategic vision and also as a realistic movement that proceeds on the basis of reality and possibilities, value any inclination towards unification of Palestinian, Arab, or Islamic efforts, even in the smallest degree.

The movement is aware of the seriousness of the coming phase and of the clear Zionist trend and the American support for the program which is continuing and which is even at the peak of its victories, targeting the entire nation, the cause, and the territory. That calls for a soul-searching pause at Palestinian or Arab levels to come out with a program of at least a minimum level of joint action.

The movement realizes that the main target is the entire Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic body. I believe that it is necessary for the movement to have some influence in this connection, in addition to shouldering the concerns of the nation as a Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic whole.

Realism and flexibility stemming from a strategic vision and true understanding of the nation's elements of strength are the movement's safety valve and the factors which enable it to create the future. Any failure to do that would be evidence of negative self-conduct.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] There have been some questions about the damage resulting from the Israeli campaigns and the campaigns launched by the autonomous authorities against Hamas. What is the extent of that damage to the movement? And what about the military wing?

[Abu-Musamih] There can be no doubt that the movement has been the target of great pressures and a vicious campaign inflicting great harm on it. I believe that Oslo reflected the balances of power against a background of Arab and Islamic weakness and ineffective program and practice.

The PA is the weakest element in the balances of power. If it fell between the Israeli and world pressure and the pressure resulting from the jihad action of the Islamic Movement, the party that would be targeted would be the one with the lesser pressure, which is undoubtedly the Islamic Movement, but the Islamic Movement is a clean movement and it would never divert its battle from its main usurping occupying enemy to a Palestinian body, be it an authority or people, and that puts it in a difficult unenviable position, and I see it as the safety valve of the Palestinian society, along with many who shoulder the national concerns.

That is why if we do not understand the attempt and if we misread it, there would be great harm to the movement. The head of the Islamic Movement is wanted internationally on the grounds that it represents fundamentalism, extremism, and violence, and that it is the Islamic future of this region and the imaginary enemy of the United States and the West. The Islamic Movement will not be an enemy of the American or Western peoples. It supports people's right to a dignified free life without injustice or aggression, in an atmosphere of real world democracy reflecting people's free choice, even if that choice was the Islamic Movement.

I believe that what happened to the Islamic Movement in the occupied territory, and especially in the Gaza Strip, was a result of misreading the formula.

The afflictions that Islamists have suffered throughout their history are part of the nature of the call for God's parth and, on the other hand, an inevitable result of the mistakes we have made.

The first affliction is a healthy sign and the second is an indication of anomaly and error, without making justifications or blaming others.

Before I finish here I must emphasize my belief that this movement existed in the past, exists now, and will continue to exist, strong and capable of surmounting its crises and reaching the point of shaping events. I beseech God to open our eyes, guide our steps, and save this nation from east to west and make it a beacon of civilization for all mankind, and God always prevails but most people do not know.

Palestinian Affairs: Al-Husayni Discusses Jerusalem, Netanyahu

NC1507082196 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 15 Jul 96

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, PA's chief of liaison with Israel and official responsible for the Jerusalem file, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd in Jerusalem; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Faysal, what new things has the meeting between presidents Mubarak and 'Arafat in Cairo added to the peace process and how has it confirmed that there is a real Arab desire for peace and that the opposite side must respond to this desire?

[Al-Husayni] The importance of this meeting proceeds from what is actually happening in the arena, such as changes inside Israel, Netanyahu's statements, his threats to close down institutions and not to continue the peace process, the new conditions he sets for the peace process, and his claims that he wants to discuss the peace process without any preconditions. It seems as though he wants to cancel the grounds on which agreement was reached regarding the peace process. Peace is greatly threatened by these new developments. This meeting takes place in order to express the need for a comprehensive Arab stance and assert that the peace issue is a strategic issue. At the same time, though the peace issue is a strategic issue, Netanyahu needs to understand that we are proceeding toward peace from our own free will and because we want this peace. The Israeli side must understand that peace is not only a requirement for the Arabs and the Palestinians, but also for the Israelis. I believe that the message that emerged from the meeting tells Netanyahu: If you really want security, you need to strive for peace. There can be no security without peace, as there can be no peace without security. True security means true peace, and this will lead to a real security in the region. No matter how much security one has as a result of existing power and potential, without peace, it will all be temporary and will provide the ground for new explosions.

[Abu-al-Majd] In his statements during his visit to the United States, Binyamin Netanyahu confirmed that Jerusalem is not open for negotiation. He said, and I quote: A new Berlin Wall will not be built in Jerusalem. Sir, you are responsible for the Jerusalem file. What will you do during the coming stage?

[Al-Husayni] First of all, our objective is not to put up a Berlin Wall. We want the borders to be open between the two parts of the city. We want the Palestinian capital to be in East Jerusalem and the Israeli capital in West Jerusalem. We want the lines to be open between the two parts. Nobody is demanding a Berlin Wall. However, what we want cannot be accomplished except through negotiations and understanding, because according to Resolution 242, Israel must withdraw from the territories it occupied in 1967; that is, it should withdraw from East Jerusalem. Since we do not want to put up a new Berlin Wall, we are presenting a new proposal, which is that after Israel's withdrawal there will be freedom of movement between the two parts of the town.

[Abu-al-Majd] If the Israeli side insists on its stance of making both East and West Jerusalem the capital of Israel, how will the Palestinian side react? What are the alternatives and options you are considering?

[Al-Husayni] Very simply, that will terminate the peace march and be a declaration of war by the Israeli side against us. Nobody knows what the reactions to this will be on the street, but they will be reactions that will sweep everyone in their way, including those who called for this peace process, of which I am one. If such an Israeli step takes place, the revolution that might erupt among the Palestinian people will not exclude anyone or show mercy toward anyone who participated in this process.

[Abu-al-Majd] How is the Palestinian side confronting Israel's attempts to close down the Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem, particularly since Israel is claiming that it will close down these institutions?

[Al-Husayni] First, by remaining steadfast on the ground and by relying on our people's support for these institutions, and then through international contacts, and of course, through political confrontation of the Likud government. With what right does it close institutions and under what pretext? They say that these institutions are carrying out activities of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. They have to prove that there are PA activities in these institutions. Otherwise, Israel has no right to close down any institutions.

[Abu-al-Majd] But what are the activities of these institutions and how legal are they, in response to Israel's claims?

[Al-Husayni] These activities are legitimate and can continue. They existed before the Oslo Agreement, and before the PA was formed. There is an agreement that no side can impose unilateral measures that could affect the results of the final stage talks. Israel's attempts to close down any of these institutions affects the final results of the negotiations; therefore, they are rejected and the Israelis have no right to do so.

[Abu-al-Majd] With regard to the U.S. cosponsor of the peace talks, there are those who claim that the U.S. elections in November will affect the United States's stance on the peace process. Will this stance continue even after elections, and what will the Palestinian reaction be if the U.S. position does change?

[Al-Husayni] The United States is supposed to be a fair mediator in this process. It is a sponsor of the peace process. If the United States takes other steps that indicate its bias to one of the parties, then it would lose its direction. If it loses this direction, particularly since it was the one who initiated this process, the whole peace process would then lose its direction. Then, they would be returning the region to the atmosphere that prevailed before the agreement.

[Abu-al-Majd] While wandering through the streets of Jerusalem, I learned that the Israeli authorities are confiscating the identity cards of the Jerusalemite Palestinians when they return to the homeland. What is the situation with regard to this matter?

[Al-Husayni] All these measures that are taking place are not legal. We ask all citizens not to submit to these measures. Whoever is subjected to such a measure should immediately report to the Orient House and we will handle these matters. People are asked to remain steadfast on their land and should not leave their cities. They should also not leave the country before getting their full rights to return to it whenever they want.

[Abu-al-Majd] Finally Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, new Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu visits Cairo next Thursday [18 July]. What do the Palestinians want Egypt to do?

[Al-Husayni] As is said, there is no war without Egypt, and there can be no peace without Egypt too. We believe that the Egyptian role, which has always been a leading and vanguard role in the region, is now in a historic position to use its potential and status. We can honestly claim that Egyptian policy proves to us every day that Egypt is actually capable of performing, and wants to perform, this role. What Egypt is expected to do at this stage is to take the same steps as the Palestinian people, to perform the role of gathering the ranks of the Arab nation, and to have firm stances on the Israeli violations and attempts to play games, as Egypt has always done. Egypt should not give Israel any opportunity to provide vague explanations that Israel could use to its benefit.

[Abu-al-Majd] Dear listeners, to conclude this dialogue, we thank you and we thank Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, official responsible for the Jerusalem file. Thank you.

[Al-Husayni] Thank you.

Palestinian Affairs: PLO's Qaddumi Views Peace Prospects

NC1507153696 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 12 Jul 96 pp 42-44

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, by Najwan 'Abd-al-Latif; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-Latif] Supposing that the negotiations can be resumed soon, is there a need to replace the Palestinian negotiators?

[Qaddumi] The Palestinian negotiators are competent. Nevertheless, the Palestinians must not enter into another round of secret negotiations about which the public knows nothing. Let the people see and criticize. Let the people and the leaders correct the course of the negotiations together instead of turning the whole affair into two opposing groups, the Authority and the opposition. We now need Palestinian national consensus and Arab concord because the remaining issues under negotiation are the fundamental ones, namely the settlements, the borders, the refugees, and Jerusalem. The Palestinians should not negotiate over these issues by themselves. Coordination among the Arab countries that we call the cordon states—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine—is necessary. The Palestinian issue is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict over which several wars were fought. Anyone who controls Palestine controls the Arab nation's heart. It is an issue that affects pan-Arab security. This must be taken into account. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Latif] Despite the numerous clouds in the Arab sky, it was possible to convene the Arab summit in a fairly good atmosphere. Can't the Palestinian opposition, along the same lines, meet with the Palestinian Authority?

[Qaddumi] We need to close ranks, all of us: the opposition, the Authority, and the resistance. I think we need to carry out reconciliations. The Authority must adopt certain measures, including the release of political prisoners, and it must call for an open national dialogue. Let us set our disagreements aside even if they are about the Oslo agreements. Let us discuss the central issues. If we clearly specify our Palestinian and pan-Arab positions on these issues, the negotiations will become easier. We must draw red lines that cannot be crossed.

['Abd-al-Latif] You are calling for an end to inter-Palestinian disagreements. Would you go to Gaza?

[Qaddumi] I will not go to Gaza unless Israeli control over the crossing points is lifted and the Palestinians have sovereignty over their land. I would go to Gaza with Palestinian, not Israeli, permission and only after Israel pledges to return the Palestinian refugees to their homes.

['Abd-al-Latif] You have said that you are willing to act as a negotiator with Israel.

[Qaddumi] Yes, on the condition that Israel accepts the principle of withdrawing from the occupied territories in return for peace, that is, on the principles adopted by the Madrid conference.

['Abd-al-Latif] You are opposed to the amendment of the PLO Charter which has now dropped all provisions calling for the destruction of Israel.

[Qaddumi] I would have liked the Palestine National Council [PNC] to hold its meeting outside Palestine. This would have been better because it would have allowed everyone to participate and the meeting would have been held away from any possible pressures. Perhaps the results of the meeting would have been different if this had happened. At any rate since the PNC which met inside Palestine adopted resolutions, it is necessary to respect these resolutions and take them seriously.

['Abd-al-Latif] What do you expect the Israeli public's opinion of the peace process in the coming stage to be?

[Qaddumi] Netanyahu's success means that the majority in Israel is against peace and for extremism. This increases our worries and pessimism. The Americans backed Peres, the Arabs supported him, and the Jews butchered him. Peres was described as flexible while Netanyahu, who is of American origin, is labelled a fanatic, a hardliner, and has little political experience. I expect Israel to live a certain level of political isolation in the coming stage and also expect a struggle among the political trends in it.

['Abd-al-Latif] What do you expect from the Arab side?

[Qaddumi] Many changes. But all I hope is that the Arab rulers will take into account the fact that the Arab street is tense and seething.

['Abd-al-Latif] Do you think they took this into consideration in the summit resolutions?

[Qaddumi] I believe that the resolutions taken were in line with the development that emerged in the Middle East. The summit was held after Netanyahu's success and the victory of the extremists and right wing in Israel. This was in itself extremely important, that is for the Arabs to pause and ponder the next stage and review their calculations in light of these changes. The Arabs' realization of the importance of reunifying the Arab family and clearing the Arab air in preparation for confronting the coming challenges was a positive behavior.

The Arabs met and took a united stand at the summit, which was principally based on backing the peace course. They stressed that they would proceed with this course on the bases on which the Madrid peace conference was held. The summit resolutions included backing and support for establishing an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The resolutions also called for a halt to the settlements and the return of the refugees in accordance with the international legitimacy resolutions.

['Abd-al-Latif] So you believe the summit was a success?

[Qaddumi] Most certainly. It was not easy for some Arab countries which have taken steps toward normalization with Israel to link the Israeli stand on peace (according to the Madrid bases) and normalization. Though the word normalization was not mentioned, it was meant in letter and in spirit. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Latif] What do you think the Arabs should do now?

[Qaddumi] Abide by what they said and act to change the circumstances surrounding the peace process, such as acting on the European front. We held a meeting with the European Union ambassador at the Egyptian Embassy in Tunis on 19 June. We explained the situation with regard to the peace process and warned of Netanyahu's insistence on the No's policies. The European statement followed, and it was right and showed an understanding of the real matter. It warned Israel that it will lose much if it stops, deviates from, or abandons the peace process.

['Abd-al-Latif] So much for the European stand. What can we do about the U.S. stand?

[Qaddumi] The U.S. stand is biased. The United States will be held fully responsible for the failure of the peace process because this process was begun after a U.S. initiative presented by former President George Bush. We accepted the initiative and participated in the Madrid conference. Every step was taken with U.S. blessing and with a U.S. signature. Then a Democratic administration came to power which from the beginning showed flagrant bias toward Israel.

['Abd-al-Latif] What do you think of Warren Christopher's recent statements during his latest visit to Israel and his backing of Netanyahu's positions?

[Qaddumi] Christopher is a mere employee who carries messages. He speaks for the U.S. Administration and does exactly as he is told. Former Secretary of State James Baker was different. He was a politician who had initiative and who could adopt stands of his own. He had a positive impact on the peace process. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Latif] Do you think that the excessive and blatant U.S. support for Israel, even when the latter is wrong, is linked to the U.S. presidential election?

[Qaddumi] The U.S. stand is always biased toward Israel. However, perhaps the United States these days does not need to trim or camouflage this bias. Indeed, the opposite is true because of the U.S. elections. I believe that the peace process will not take one single step forward until after the U.S. presidential election. Everything that will happen from now until then will be mere empty talk. I have no illusions about our conflict with Israel. I know that it is still going to be a long one. Netanyahu says he is ready to discuss peace if the Palestinian Authority promises to halt terrorism, to deport those who carry it out, and to refrain from any incitement against Israel. As for the other issues, including Jerusalem, the settlements, the refugees, the water resources, territory, and the establishment of a Palestinian state, he does not mention them at all. When 130 UN troops were assigned to [supervise Israeli troop redeployment in] Hebron, Israel prevented them from carrying out their mission and they had to return. This came in an announcement by the commander of these troops. Nobody objected and the whole issue was forgotten. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-Latif] External forces are behind the rearrangement of conditions in the region and this is causing further Arab weakness, including the Turkish-Israeli military agreement.

[Qaddumi] It is certainly a very dangerous thing when Turkey allies itself with Israel. It will be a big mistake if any Arab country joins this alliance. However, when we deal with Turkey, we must do so wisely. We must distinguish between the various political parties and political currents in Turkey. One major current, led by the Refah Party which is now in power, believes that the agreement with Israel was a mistake and that Turkey is part of the Islamic world. We must coordinate our opposition to Israel's occupation of Arab territories with this political current. [passage omitted]

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Syrian Envoy Says No Talks Without Israeli Pledge on Golan

TA1407091496 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Jul 96 p 19

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer and Hayim Shibi, in the United States, and No'omi Levitzky]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has relayed a message to President al-Asad calling for the resumption of the negotiations without preconditions.

The message was communicated on 12 July during a private conversation between Netanyahu's political adviser Dr. Dore Gold and Syrian Ambassador to Washington Walid al-Mu'allim. During the 10-minute meeting, Gold presented Netanyahu's concept of the arrangement with Syria and suggested launching negotiations on Lebanon. Israeli sources stressed that the importance of the meeting lay in its very existence.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 14 July, page 5, carries a report by special correspondent to Washington Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Shefi Gabay, and 'Ada Kohen, stating that "al-Mu'allim told Dr. Dore Gold that 'Syria would not return to the peace talks without an Israeli declaration of commitment to withdraw from the Golan.'"]

Arab-Israeli Talks: Palestinian-Israeli Talks on Water Problem in Janin Ends

JN1407160496 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jul 96

[Report by Nasir Abu-Bakr in Janin]

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting held at the joint Palestinian-Israeli military liaison office in Janin ended at 1500 [1200 GMT] today. Attending the meeting on the Palestinian side were Walid Abu-Muways, the mayor of Janin; Engineer Zuhdi Mansur, the municipality's director; Bassam Subayhat, director of Palestinian civil liaison; Colonel Jamil Abu-al-Futuh, director of Palestinian military liaison; and a delegation from the Palestinian Water Authority in Ramallah, headed by Tahir Nasir-al-Din. Attending the meeting on the Israeli side were representatives of the Israeli liaison and a delegation from Israeli water company MACAROD, led by the company's head of the central area, as well as engineers and technicians from the company.

The conferees discussed the water problem in Janin resulting from Israel's inefficiency in supplying the city with water. Mayor Walid Abu-Muways told Voice of

Palestine said that he presented the problem at the meeting. He explained clearly the water problem in Janin and demanded of the Israeli side that the session be devoted to solving the problem and not end without decisive decisions to solve this problem. Abu-Muways added that the Israeli side agreed to supply Janin with 140 cups [as heard] per hour with adequate pressure.

He noted that a subcommittee was formed from the Palestinian and Israeli sides that includes representatives of the municipality, the Palestinian Water Authority, and Israe[illegible]vater company MACAROD. The committee members began work, and the problem is expected to be solved within a week. Abu-Muways said that MACAROD promised to begin other experiments soon on Janin's water well, which the company dug recently. The company promised to finish work on the well this year.

Abu-Muways reassured the city's inhabitants that the water crisis will be eased if the Israeli side lives up to its promises. The conferees agreed to hold another meeting at the well in Jaba' on Wednesday [17 July] to check on the implementation mechanism agreed on earlier.

Algeria

Algeria: Zeroual Receives Leaders of ANR, PRA, RCD, HAMAS

LD1507140496 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This morning, in the framework of multilateral meetings with the Algerian Presidency, President Liamine Zeroual, received at the presidency headquarters leaders of the following parties:

The Republican National Alliance [ANR] led by Mr. Redha Malek, the Algerian Renewal Party [PRA] led by Mr. Nourredine Boukrouh, the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] led by Mr. Said Sadi, and the Islamic Society Movement [HAMAS] led by Mr. Mahfoud Nahnah.

These meetings come within the framework of invitations sent to leaders of political parties, national organizations and associations with the aim of continuing to deepen national dialogue on issues concerning the future of the country.

The meetings of President Zeroual with leaders of the four political parties were attended by Mohamed Betchine, Amar Zagrar, Youcef Yousfi, Abdelkader Taffar, and Abdelmadjiid Bouzidi, respectively, minister adviser to the head of state, secretary general of the Presidency, head of the presidential office, adviser on international affairs and cooperation, and adviser on economic affairs at the Presidency.

Circumstances surrounding the start of the multilateral meetings are discussed by Mohsen Slimani, our special envoy to the Presidency.

[Slimani] Despite the hesitation concerning his participation in this new round of national dialogue, the RCD leader, at the last minute, attended the start of the multilateral meetings. [passage omitted]

Algeria: Opposition Leaders Make Statements After Zeroual Meeting

LD1507221296 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] After the meeting [with Algerian President Liamine Zeroual], Redha Malek, Nourredine Boukrouh, and Mahfoud Nahnah made the following statements. Said Sadi [leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, RCD] did not comment.

[Begin recording] [Redha Malek, leader of the Republican National Alliance, ANR] There were many points on the agenda and we discussed them — the constitutional amendments, laws concerning political parties, elections, the preparatory document that is going to be proposed to the National Conference — all these points were discussed objectively and each one presented his views.

There is also an idea about forming committees for consultations on laws governing parties, elections, and the preparation of the document to be presented to the National Conference.

[Unidentified correspondent] Have you agreed on an agenda?

[Malek] We have agreed or almost agreed upon most issues but not the constitutional amendments. We gave our position on these amendments, and the discussion will continue.

[Nourredine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Renewal Party, PRA] On the whole the multiparty dialogue has brought up objective points, which were agreed by all. This allows us to be optimistic about the continuing multiparty dialogue. The issue of the constitutional amendment is still not resolved, but there is more understanding than in the previous weeks. There is a new dynamic of mutual understanding, and this is the most important thing.

[Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS] This is the beginning of the road.

[Correspondent] Are there any disagreements?

[Nahnah] Of course — parts of what was said were acceptable and others were not. [end recording]

Algeria: National Dialogue Talks Begin in Algiers

LD1607094496 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The second round of [this year's] national dialogue began at the Presidency yesterday with the first meeting of the multilateral talks called for by President Liamine Zeroual, in the context of the comprehensive approach he adopted to broaden the national dialogue around issues involving the future of the nation and reaching national concord.

The president met with the delegations of the National Republican Alliance led by Redha Malek, the Algerian Renewal Party led by Nourredine Boukrouh, the Rally for Culture and Democracy led by Said Sadi, and the Movement for the Islamic Society led by Mahfoud Nahnah. The meeting was long and lasted about six hours and discussed the main issues that concern the future of the nation, including the content of the presidential memorandum which put forward an institutional reform program.

After the meeting, Nourredine Boukrouh said he is happy with the results of the meeting. He was interviewed by Mouhamed Chellouche:

[Begin Boukrouh recording] We can say that the first elements of a national concord, which we are all seeking to achieve, are emerging. Today's meeting was very beneficial.

An agreement in principle was reached on some items of the agenda. I can mention the agreement reached on the review of the law on political parties and the agreement on the review of the election law. We all agreed on setting up commissions to review these two laws.

We can say in general that the multilateral talks succeeded in highlighting some objective issues on which we all agreed. Thus we are optimistic about these multilateral talks. [end recording]

[Chellouche] The leader of the Algerian Renewal Party said that there is still no agreement on the issue of reform of the constitution but understanding over this issue is now much better that it was a few weeks ago. Nourredine Boukrouh said that compared with the initial reactions to the presidential memorandum, this multilateral meeting resulted in significant convergence of views. [passage omitted]

Algeria: FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS1507130696 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 9 Jul 96

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe"; quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Editorial — How about the Algerian state terrorism?!

In an article published by the "LOS ANGELES TIMES" on Monday the 24 of June 1996, one can read the following: "Many Algerians are sceptical that the hands of their government, which preaches the virtues of tolerance and its openness to all Algerians, are much cleaner than those of its Islamic fundamentalist enemy. Keltoum Larbes, a nurse whose husband, a 37-year-old reporter for the newspaper Liberte, was killed two years ago, suspects that his death, along with many other violent acts for which the Islamists are blamed, was the work of police hit squads. "Everyone talks of fundamentalist terrorism," the young widow said. "But who talks of state terrorism?" In truth, some of the most feared men in Algeria are the black-masked "ninjas" from a crack anti-terrorist commando unit. A study by the French Defense Ministry's Delegation for Strategic Affairs concludes: "The strategy of counter-guerrilla warfare utilized by the armed forces is the fairly simple technique of terrorizing the population." (end of quotation).

Indeed it is becoming more and more clear for the people that the Algerian situation and tragedy is not as caricatural as the military regime wants to project to the outside world while tying to the extreme limits, the local press. The regime interminable propaganda has established in the minds some news readers, the "Pavlovian" reflex of "crime in Algeria equals Islamists authors!".

What is also interesting from the above extract, is the French Defense Ministry's Delegation for Strategic Affairs conclusion which states that the only strategy the military regime has, is simply:"terrorizing the population".

So, if the situation in Algeria is just that of "Islamist terrorism" as the regime likes to put it in order to "connect" its own problem with some kind of international alliance, or as its prime minister Ouyahia said last week, that the regime is about to exterminate the "residual terrorism", then why terrorising the whole population? It is because the military regime is not stupid when it comes to its survival. It perfectly knows that the amount of "willingness to revolt" that is "stored" within the population is increasing daily and when that happens, it is only Allah who Knows what will be the consequences! Indeed, they are too many fire arms in the streets of Algeria nowadays!

One can picture the situation of a whole population as a metalic spring. At rest under normal conditions, compressed under oppression and in expansion under the conditions of revolt and anarchy.

In Algeria the military regime has only two options, either "diffusing" the stored accumulated people anger by a genuine political solution, not those false "patches" in which the people instinctively smell another of the regime technics of survival, or to keep on administering increasing oppression in order to prevent the "spring to expand uncontrollably". The military regime has always and still is opting for the second option. The "problem" with this option however, is that it is not free and requires more and more of energy and more and more of finances.

If one takes the propaganda cover away from the military regime economical policies, one can find that the objective of every move is only to get the much needed cash to finance the oppression. The military regime may seem to follow the international finances organisations plans but in reality it applies and with an excessive zeal, only those parts of the IMF and WB plans that rescue its oppressive apparatus from its cash-flow problems. That is why for example, one does not hear much about the development of the private sector or any strategy related to that matter but will have one's ears full of "we need to sell public companies"! As for the private sector which is not "sucking" the public sector and therefore not under direct control and "protection" of the Nomenklatura, it has been neglected, assassinated and sometimes pushed underground under labels such as "Trabendo". How similarly the regime deals with politics and economy.The opacity of the Algerian situation due to the media censorship does not permit to evaluate precisely the part of resources that was transferred from vital economical sectors to the oppressive apparatus but the late financial report of public sector companies can give a good estimation. Sensing preliminary signs of some western countries policy "rethinking" vis a vis Islamic political parties, the military regime is now using Algerian "Islamists" to tour western capitals asking for money to be brought to Algeria as the pseudo-republicans and pseudo-democrats was used before them.

The military regime chosen option has not a chance of surviving because of two simple raisons, it needs a spirally increasing funds to hold the equally increasing popular pressure and secondly, larger and larger proportion of cash extracted by different crafty means, is consumed by the oppression apparatus while leaving less and less for the personal consumption of the Nomenklatura which is the real pillar of the whole military regime edifice. It is well known that the later will never work for free!

News and comments: Military regime media black out!

A few dozens of international journalists from the press, TV and radio were prevented by the military regime to enter Algeria after being invited by the local independent press. They have declared that no explanation were given to them for this refusal. They have declared: "This attitude has become a dangerous habit from the Algerian government. It is an offence for not only the freedom of travelling but also for the freedom of expression and information which the Algerian authorities pretend to defend.".

The Algerian newspaper "LA TRIBUNE" has had its offices sealed by the military regime in another show of cracking down the local press.

The catastrophic state of the Algerian economy!

According to the military regime government, the public companies are sinking more and more in the "red". They have globally reached a deficit of A.D 128 billions. This news should be taken with caution as the regime's urge to get some cash by selling the "whole lot" is very well known. Some observers see in this kind of declaration a prelude to make the price of public companies so cheap to sell in order to acquire the much needed cash as soon as possible. As for economic data, it is still under the regime monopoly as no independent source have a right to check.

Industrial actions:

The Algerian airline Air-Algerie is still on strike. To the industrial action of the pilots, the mechanics have join in. Mr Ouyahia decision to introduce new taxes penalising this category of workers with an additional up to 30% "sucking" on their salaries seems to have been the spark that have started all of this.

200,000 workers from the construction sector have started their unlimited strike. The main demands are salaries and for their companies to get their money for the jobs they have been doing for the "bureaucratic apparatus" of Mr Ouyahia government.

According to the military regime statistic, the number of unemployed people have reached two millions people. Observers see that Algeria would have been a better place to live if this number were only true!

The propaganda machine and its enthusiastic echoes!

Since the military regime has heard about a rally in London to show the faithfulness of the FIS grassroots to its leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, it has been quick to react as usually by showing that the two leaders "are not worth to be followed". The propaganda this time was made via the London based newspaper "SHARK AL AWSAT" (03/07/96) which quotes ANONYMOUS source of four (not one!) "political personalities" who tells their stories of how they are in permanent contact with the jailed FIS leaders and how they know all their plans and secrets. This time the scenario has not changed in its content. It is always to show that the FIS jailed leaders are not like the Mujahedeen and the grassroots imagine them, no they are begging the mighty Generals to talk to them and are ready to do whatever their torturers will say. This of course, was enthusiastically echoed with big headlines by the traditional FIS hopeless destructors. While all of them reported what the "SHARK AL AWSAT" journalist Amir Tahri says in that articles they all "forget" or so it seems to mention another article from the same journalist in the same newspaper of the same day (03/07/96) under the title "The FIS: they have pretended to have banned it, its voice is still heard from other mouths!". In this article Amir Tahri says:" The visitor (to Algeria) will always find three or four (the same four?!) personalities from the opposition who pretend to be on a "daily contact" with the FIS jailed leaders but what they present is four different pictures about the policies followed by the FIS" (end of quotation). This illustrates to some extend why many of the regime supporters can not do without mentioning every time and for the past five years, the "banned FIS" in their speeches or propaganda "literature" with an abundant intellectual dishonesty.

Egypt

Egypt: Musa Comments on Meeting With 'Arafat, Leaves for Moscow

NC1507143196 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Moscow at noon today for a two-day official visit during which he will convey a message from President Husni Mubarak to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. During his stay, Musa will also hold talks with senior Russian Government officials on the most important world and regional issues of mutual interest. On top of these issues is the Middle East peace and efforts to save the peace process and ways to promote bilateral ties in various spheres.

Foreign Minister Musa stated today that during his meeting with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat last night, they discussed the latest world and regional developments, the effect of all developments on the peace process, and the efforts being exerted to save the peace process from current threats. The aim, he said, is to complete implementation of the accords signed in Oslo, Washington, and Cairo concerning the Palestinian track.

The foreign minister added that they also discussed the need for and importance of pursuing the peace process to achieve security and stability for all the region's nations. He said he reiterated during the meeting the need to comply with the Madrid principles, primarily the principle of land for peace and UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

Musa said that the Egyptian and Palestinian sides' views were in agreement that the bases agreed upon as regards the peace process need no reconsideration. Reconsidering them, he remarked, might have a negative and serious impact on the entire peace process. Musa said he briefed President 'Arafat during the meeting on the agreement reached at yesterday's meetings of the Damascus Declaration member states' foreign ministers and on the contacts he made with his counterparts, the foreign ministers who took part in these meetings.

Egypt: AL-AHRAM on Musa's Russia Trip, 'Biased' U.S. Position

NC1607092996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0520 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has described Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's visit to Russia as important because it is the first official visit by an Egyptian foreign minister to the Russian Federation as well as the first high-level and direct Egyptian-Russian meeting after the Russian election. In its editorial today the paper says the visit is part of extensive Egyptian diplomatic efforts to salvage the Middle East peace process and marshal international efforts to promote it in the right direction.

The paper notes the positive and leading role played by Moscow in the Middle East, with the Madrid conference in 1991, and moves toward a comprehensive and just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. AL-AHRAM points out that Moscow was one of the conference sponsors, along with Washington, as well as a witness to the positive and negative repercussions of the conference.

The paper expresses regret over the biased U.S. position in favor of Israel's new aggressive policies, which have upset the balance in the peace process, stressing the need for the peace process partners, particularly Russia and the European Union, to heed the repercussions of the manipulative policy the new Israeli Government is trying to impose.

Egypt: Syrian Foreign Minister al-Shar' Arrives, Meets Mubarak

NC1607093696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Cairo today on a short visit carrying a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Husni Mubarak. Al-Shar' was received at the airport by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, as well as Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish.

On his arrival, al-Shar' stated that the message from the Syrian president to President Mubarak concerns the continuing consultations and coordination between the two fraternal countries ars well as the follow up to resolutions issued by the recent Arab summit in Cairo. Asked whether al-Shar' will present any Syrian proposals for discussion between President Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu during Netanyahu's visit to Egypt on 18 July, al- Shar' said: We always consult with our brothers in Egypt on different issues.

[In a related Cairo-datelined report, Cairo MENA in Arabic at 0856 GMT on 16 July adds the following:

["President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received this morning at the presidential headquarters in Heliopolis Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. The meeting was attended by Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Syrian Ambassador in Cairo 'Isa Darwish."]

Egypt: Jordanian Prime Minister al-Kabariti, Syria's al-Shar' Confer

NC1607102296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al—Kabariti, the Jordanian prime minister and foreign minister, and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held talks at the Egyptian Presidential Office in Cairo at noon today. The talks were attended by the Jordanian and Syrian ambassadors in Cairo, Nayif al-Qadi and 'Isa Darwish.

Both al-Kabariti and al-Shar' arrived in Cairo earlier today and had separate meetings with President Husni Mubarak.

Egypt: Jordan's al-Kabariti Meets Mubarak, Departs Cairo

NC1607112396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1050 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, Jordanian prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo this afternoon after a lightning visit of a few hours. Al-Kabariti met President Muhammad Husni Mubarak during the visit.

Egypt: Syria's al-Shar' Delivers Message to Mubarak, Departs

NC1607114296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' left Cairo this afternoon for home after a quick visit to Egypt.

Al-Shar' delivered a message from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to President Husni Mubarak when Mubarak received him earlier today.

Egypt: AL-AKHBAR Criticizes Sudan for Not Responding to Egypt's Moves

NC1607071696 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0510 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR has criticized the Sudanese Government for not taking positive steps to clear the atmosphere with Egypt, despite the opportunity President Husni Mubarak gave the Sudanese regime during the recent Arab summit in Cairo to review its policies, policies that have led to Sudan's isolation on the Arab, regional, and international levels.

In a comment in its 16 July issue, the paper says that Egypt, which has always adhered to a policy of nonintervention in the internal affairs of any other country, can only renew its call to the ruling regime in Khartoum to quickly review its policies out of its concern for the interests of the innocent Sudanese people.

The paper adds that if Sudan wants to consider the interests of the Sudanese people it should stop sheltering terrorists and show good intentions toward Egyptian-Sudanese relations.

The newspaper says the Security Council will, on 18 July, review the sanctions imposed on Sudan. It points out that if Egypt's efforts two months ago succeeded in making these sanctions a platform for decreasing the size of various countries' diplomatic missions in Sudan, then nobody knows what the Security Council can do now. Sudan has continued its defiance and refused to hand over the defendants in the case of the attempt to assassinate President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June of last year.

Egypt: MENA Reports Killing of Islamic Group Leader

NC1507181796 Cairo MENA in English 1641 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, 15 Jul (MENA)—Commander of the military wing of the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic group) in Asyut, Upper Egypt, was killed in a shoot-out with the police, while on his way to Abu Tij railways station for a rendezvous with a colleague of his.

Sayyid 'Abd-al-Rahim Mustafa opened fire at the police when he felt that he was being pursued, an Interior Ministry source said.

A gun was found on the body of Mustafa, who was carrying a forged identity card, to pose as a professor at the faculty of Islamic studies, Suhaj University.

The security source said that the gun found on the terrorist's body belongs to Captain Salah 'Abd-al-Hamid Nasr of Abu Tij police station who was killed in a terrorist attack in June last year.

Two police conscripts were killed in the same attack in which eight other persons, including three children were injured.

Mustafa, one of the outlawed group's key leaders in Upper Egypt, was responsible for the military training of terrorist elements and for running terrorist cells and hideouts in al-Badari. He was wanted by the police for his involvement in carrying out up to a score of terrorist operations in which almost 35 persons, including policemen, were killed.

Libya

Libya: 'Political Prisoners Killed' During Bu Salim Prison Protest

MM1507153796 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Miral Fahmi: "Scores Killed or Wounded in Fierce Soccer Match Riots"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo — [passage omitted] Libyan opposition sources said yesterday that eight political prisoners were killed last week during the suppression of a rebellion in Bu Salim prison near the capital, stressing that the Libyan regime's aim behind the announcement of military maneuvers is to cover up a large-scale campaign of arrests of oppositionists.

The sources cited travelers arriving in Cairo as saying that "eight political prisoners were killed during a protest move staged 5 July, which lasted five days, in Bu Salim prison."

The sources added that the incidents started when "scores of political prisoners organized a hunger strike in protest of mistreatment. Having failed to calm the prisoners down, prison officials fired at them, killing eight. But about 30 prisoners were able to escape." The sources said that security forces are mounting a large-scale campaign to arrest them.

The sources added that "thousands of political prisoners, especially the military men involved in the 1993 coup attempt, in addition to numerous students and Islamists" are held in Bu Salim prison.

On the live-fire maneuvers, which JANA announced last Friday [12 July], the sources — citing eyewitnesses — said that they are "an attempt to conceal a large-scale government military campaign against numerous armed opposition groups, including Islamic groups."

Bahrain

Bahrain: Prime Minister Leaves for Jeddah on 'Official' Visit

JN1607101396 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Manama, 16 Jul (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah left Manama today for Jeddah on an official visit to the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the invitation of his brother His Highness 'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and Saudi Arabian National Guard commander. [passage omitted]

During the visit, the prime minister will hold talks with senior Saudi officials on the firm relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples, the means of promoting bilateral cooperation in all fields in the interest of the two fraternal peoples, and ways to bolster the march of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states, in addition to issues of joint interest to both countries within the framework of coordination and consultation between them. [passage omitted]

Bahrain: Thousands Mourn '27th Martyr' of 'Uprising'

JN1507173896 (Internet) Voice of Bahrain WWW in English 12 Jul 96

[Voice of Bahrain is a London-based Bahraini opposition source]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] More than twenty thousand people poured into the village of Kharjiyah in the oil-rich island of Sitrah to mourn the 27th martyr of the uprising. 'Ali Tahir, 17 years old, was shot dead on 2 July by one of the death squads recently deployed by the Bahrain Defence Force. These death squads put on ordinary clothes and are armed with automatic machine-guns. When the ruling family sentenced three innocent people to death on 1 July, the island of Sitrah witnessed heavy clashes. Members of the Pakistani riot police failed to quell the turbulence. All of a sudden several civilian cars entered the neighborhood in Kharjiyah. Members of the death squad emerged from these cars and sprayed live ammunition on a crowd of people killing 'Ali Tahir and injuring four other. The criminals were identified by the people as being members of special units belonging to the Bahrain Defence Force.

The Kuwaiti Crown Prince visited Bahrain and met with the Amir and other members of the Al Khalifah ruling family. The Kuwaitis have just released a loan for the government and are worried that the money might disappear in a similar way as previous funds disappeared. The Unitag Group which is owned by the prime minister usually takes the lion share by awarding itself lucrative contracts that benefit no one but the prime minister and his son. The Kuwaiti Crown Prince is attempting to convince the Al Khalifah ruling family that it is time to change their attitude before it is too late. The policy of victimizing the Shia community is not yielding its results and opposition activists from all sections of the society believe that it is time to put an end to these irresponsible practices. It is unlikely that the prime minister would be courageous enough to admit his mistakes and give way to new ways in governance based on the constitution of Bahrain. The contrary is expected as more is being talked about the bypassing of the constitution by establishing an autocratic system of provinces linked to the intelligence department. The prime minister policy is based on the false dream of crushing the constitutional uprising by next October. The opposition is aware that the present onslaught, the killing, the arbitrary sentencing, the creation of coup-fictions and the deployment of cheap media campaigns are nothing but a camouflage for installing an unconstitutional political structure and imposing a status-quo that has no legitimacy. These unconstitutional set-ups will fail miserably in a similar way as did the all-appointed "Shura Council" that had been born dead in the first place.

The people of Bahrain are more determined than ever to press ahead with all legitimate peaceful means of civil resistance, no matter how long it takes, to achieve their basic rights as enshrined in the constitution. If the prime minister or anyone else is not up to modern challenges, then they ought to give way to a newer generation to safeguard the interests of the State of Bahrain.

Bahrain: Heir Apparent Comments on Island Dispute With Qatar

JN1607103496 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1402 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 15 Jul (WAKH) — His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and general commander of the Bahraini Defense Force, asserted that Bahrain is a sovereign state that cannot relinquish its sovereignty over any inch of its land. Speaking to Staff Lieutenant General Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Ahmad Al Khalifah, defense minister and deputy general commander, and a number of senior officers from the Defense Force, his highness said that the Hawar islands constitute one-third of Bahrain's area and that their area is fixed. In this regard, his highness said that Bahrain will not allow overlooking this fact under the cover of demands and marginal border disputes.

He said that Bahrain is ready to prove this fact through evidence at any time. He added that Bahrain will defend this fact and sacrifice everything for it regardless of the price.

His highness added: When Bahrain, both government and people, is asked today to examine or reconsider one-third of its national entity represented in the Hawar islands and their waters, then this simply means demanding it to cede its legitimate right to defend itself, land, and entity. This will never be the case under whatever logic and circumstances.

His highness the heir apparent said that demanding the Hawar islands, which accounts for one-third of the national entity, under the pretext of international arbitration represents unlimited expansion and cutting out of land. His highness said that these demands will open the door for cutting out any part of any country in the region to be annexed to another country. He said that sisterly Kuwait suffered from this recently under various pretexts, and the United Arab Emirates is still facing a similar situation. He noted that the entire region is still suffering from the repercussions of this trend.

His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah pointed out that what Bahrain is being exposed to in terms of the Qatari claim for one-third of Bahrain's territories is part of the attempts to cut out the land of other people, which brought nothing to the peoples of the Arabian Gulf except wars, dire losses, and foreign interference.

His highness said: Bahrain was always willing to shake the hands of all sisters and friends who were sincere in their desire for joint cooperation. However, Bahrain will shun every hand that wants to harm it or cut out so much as an iota of its national soil. His highness said that this is a right and a duty that cannot be shirked by any responsible state or leadership.

His highness asserted that the people of Bahrain said their word in this matter when they resolved the issue by means of an international decision over a quarter of a century ago. At the time, a fact-finding mission commissioned by the Security Council arrived in Bahrain and found that the Bahraini people had reached a consensus on the unity of their entity, their islands, and their archipelago from al-Muharraq in the north to Hawar in the south.

His highness said that this fact was recognized by international legitimacy resolutions and is stipulated in the Bahraini Constitution, the first article of which states the importance and inevitability of adhering to the unity of the national Bahraini entity. Therefore, no Bahraini official can ever relinquish an iota of this entity.

His highness the heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force wondered: Even if we see the matter from the Qatari angle, what is it that the sisterly State of Qatar hopes to achieve by cutting out a third of the Bahraini territories? In reply to the question, his highness said: The State of Qatar is one of the richest states in the world and is one of the countries with the least density in population in comparison with its area. Bahrain, on the other hand, is among the most heavily populated states and is suffering pressure on its resources. Therefore, we cannot accept to bear down on the people of Bahrain by limiting their means of livelihood and confining them to an already-limited area in this homeland. The heir apparent added: One of the most important principles adopted by the regime in this country is to preserve the peoples' livelihood intact and to protect them without encroaching on others.

His highness went on to say: This is a fact which we want our brothers in Qatar to understand. Bahrain is a sovereign state. It cannot relinquish its sovereignty over any inch of its territory. If sisterly Qatar is free to do whatever it wants in terms of what concerns it on its territory, then Bahrain too has full sovereignty over all its territories. No one can ask Bahrain to give up this right, which is ours.

His highness expressed his confidence in the possibility of building a distinguished relationship with Qatar based on the unity of the kinsfolk, kinship relations, and joint interests.

His highness said that defending the homeland will remain the most noble and strongly entrenched human value in accordance with national traditions and laws, international legitimacy principles, and above all Islamic law. One cannot imagine any international legitimacy that would deny the human being the legitimacy of adhering to every inch of his homeland and his right to defend it by all means and methods.

His highness said that Bahrain is distinguished because of its civilization and tolerant and open-minded history. There are no people in this region who love peace more than the people of Bahrain and this is a fact realized by all brothers in the Gulf and by the entire world.

At the same time, his highness said that Bahrain is well known for its long history of steadfastness in confronting any attempts and allegations by any party aimed at encroaching on its entity. Everyone is aware of this fact, which enjoys the recognition of the entire world. The people of Bahrain sacrificed everything that is dear in defense of the unity of their national entity in the past, present, until the day when the state of Bahrain emerged with its full entity, which is recognized by the whole world, in the face of all allegations or attempts of expansion and encroachment on its borders by any source. His highness noted that the leadership and people of Bahrain have no choice but to defend, once again, every inch of the homeland.

Concluding his statements, His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah said that solving the dispute between Bahrain and Qatar direly needs a convergence of views regarding a satisfactory solution and its mechanism. His highness stressed that a solution based on understanding between the two sides can only be reached with this logical and necessary step.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Foreign Minister Receives Message From Egyptian Counterpart

LD1507142796 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1358 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 15 Jul — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received a message today from Egypt's Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. In a statement to KUNA, an official source at the Foreign Ministry said that the message dealt with bilateral relations, issues of common interest, and regional and international developments.

Mustafa Abu-Shunayf, Egypt's ambassador to the State of Kuwait, delivered the message to the [Kuwaiti] Foreign Ministry undersecretary.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: King Fahd 'Satisfied' With Damascus Declaration Meeting

LD1607091296 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Taking note of the progress of the sixth five—year development plan which is in its second year, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, affirmed that comprehensive development is proceeding within the government's framework in compliance with the values and traditions of Saudi society, emanating from Islamic thinking, conduct, and civilization. [passage omitted]

This evening King Fahd chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers in the Salam Palace in Jeddah. In a statement to the Saudi news agency, SPA, at the end of the meeting, Information Minister Dr. Fu'ad Bin 'Abd-al-Salam al-Farsi said the king stressed that the comprehensive development process represents organized and committed efforts by all of Saudi society. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Farsi said that the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God safeguard him, expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the 16th meeting of the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration countries which was held in Muscat. He said the results are a positive contribution to attaining the benevolent goals stated in the final communique which was issued on Sunday, 14 July. [passage omitted]

Iraq: Bodyguard Reportedly Shoots at Saddam in Baghdad Palace

JN1507144896 Amman AL-HADATH in Arabic 15 Jul 96 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraqi opposition outside Iraq, which is reporting an aborted assassination attempt against President Saddam Husayn, could not elaborate on the scenario of the attempt. Information has been revealed, however, that Major Muhammad al-'Ayyash, one of the president's bodyguards, shot at the president as he was getting into his car inside the Presidential Palace in Baghdad, but Saddam was not hurt. Saddam's bodyguards immediately killed al-'Ayyash and a number of his men who were trying to cover him in that attempt.

The same report added information about a large-scale mutiny at the Air Force Academy in Tikrit, but the security authorities were able to prevent a number of pilots from flying their planes toward Baghdad. A number of the academy pilots, who are from Tikrit, was arrested.

Opposition forces said that officers from the Military Intelligence, the Republican Guard, and the Special Security Command have been arrested. No Iraqi opposition faction has yet claimed responsibility for this attempt, which is believed to be a coup attempt. Iraqi opposition sources in Amman do not rule out that the attempt could be an individual move by a number of Sunni officers from the Governorates of Salah-al-Din, Mosul, and al-Anbar.

Iraq: Army Commanders Arrested; Saddam Said To Escape Assassination

JN1507154096 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A state of maximum alert is still in effect in the Republican Guard units and among the bodyguards of tyrant Saddam after information about a coup attempt, which was foiled late last month, was revealed.

Our sources said a number of commanders of the Republican Guard divisions and units are being summoned for interrogation by a special committee chaired by criminal Qusayy Saddam.

Our sources asserted that three of these commanders did not return to their units, and that they might have been arrested at the Special Security Organ headquarters in the capital, Baghdad.

In Amman, the weekly newspaper AL-HAQIQAH said tyrant Saddam was subjected to an assassination attempt at one of his palaces in the al-Ramadi Governorate. The paper added that a devastating explosion occurred inside the palace minutes after Saddam left. The explosion was heard in the city of al-Ramadi. The paper pointed out that a bodyguard from the al-Dulaym clan planned the assassination attempt.

Iraq: Officers, Military Governors Reportedly Interrogated

NC1507144896 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources in Baghdad confirmed that the repressive authority interrogated retired Lieutenant General Nazir [word indistinct] al-Rashid al-Tikriti last Thursday [11 July] at the special security service's headquarters. He was interrogated about information on confessions made by a number of arrested military officers [words indistinct] on meetings described as a plot against the dictator's regime.

These sources said that al-Mawsil Governor Lt. Gen. Muhammad 'Abd-al-Qadir and al-Muthanna Governor Lt. Gen. Ayad Salim Turki were also summoned to Baghdad last weekend for interrogation on [word indistinct] charges. The same sources expect more military governors to be summoned and interrogated.

This is happening at a time when reports confirmed that more than 160 officers and air force pilots were arrested by last weekend.

The regime's security services last week [words indistinct] Khamis Sha'ban, former Air Force commander, and placed him under house arrest in Baghdad following his release.

Iraq: Al-Anbari on UN Talks, Oil Contracts, Exportation Date

JN1507205096 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 15 Jul 96

[Report by Huda Tawfiq in the United Nations; received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq's UN Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari told AL-ITTIHAD that it is possible to sign contracts on exporting Iraqi oil for the first time as early August if things go well in the ongoing talks between the Iraqi delegation and the UN General Secretariat.

After UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali returned to UN Headquarters in New York, he began intensive contacts with his advisers on the talks between the UN General Secretariat and the Iraqi delegation regarding the plan on distributing food, medicine, and equipment, worth $1 billion, over a renewable period of three months.

Al-Anbari told AL-ITTIHAD that one of the powers of the UN secretary general is to endorse the distribution procedures in accordance with a Security Council resolution, which authorizes only the UN secretary general, and not the Security Council member states, to endorse the distribution plan.

Al-Anbari said the United States circumvented the powers of the UN secretary general and the Security Council when it halted the distribution plan. This prompted Russia and France to object to the interference in the task assigned to the UN secretary general. He added that the decision on selling oil and importing food is contingent upon the endorsement procedures of the UN secretary general, so if there is approval the next step will be to open an account in the Banque Nationale de Paris. At the same time, the Sanctions Committee (661) should approve the list of procedures on endorsing the oil contracts. The UN secretary general will inform the Security Council of the start of implementing the contracts and of the executive decision.

Iraq attaches importance to meeting again U.S. companies that might import and export Iraqi oil for the first time since they stopped dealing with Iraq on 2 August 1990 after the Iraqi aggression on Kuwait.

The U.S. Administration agreed to permit U.S. companies to enter the Iraqi oil market as part of implementing Security Council Resolution 986, which allows Iraq to sell a limited quantity of oil, worth $1 billion, for a renewable period of three months.

Al-Anbari said: The U.S. Administration issued instructions to the U.S. companies on how to deal with the Iraqi oil. He added that what is important is not the quantity of oil itself, but establishing relations with the Iraqi Government in view of the substantial amount of oil reserves in Iraq.

Asked if there were any measures to develop the Iraqi oil fields at this stage, al-Anbari said: There is no plan to this effect, but as soon as the U.S. companies begin to buy the Iraqi oil, human as well as professional relations will develop, which will lead to other kinds of dealings.

Al-Anbari added that before the Gulf crisis, the United States was the biggest market for Iraqi oil. The United States used to import 1 million barrels per day [BPD] out of the 3.5 million BPD of Iraq's daily oil exports. Al-Anbari said that al-Bakr port is now ready for exporting oil, which will be done via the Ceyhan port in Turkey.

Al-Anbari said that the quantity of oil, which Iraq is allowed to export, amounts to approximately 750,000 barrels. This is a small quantity and is not expected to affect international oil prices, even though the first few weeks may see a decrease in prices due to psychological and political reasons rather than economic reasons.

Al-Anbari said that international demand for oil is on the increase. If each of the OPEC states sticks to its assigned shares, then the international market will be able to absorb the limited quantity of exported Iraqi oil without oil prices being affected.

He added: Obviously, Iraq is seeking much more than just implementing the oil-for-food resolution, which specifies the ceiling of oil sales to be $2 billion within a period of six months. Al-Anbari said that the agreement is renewable if Iraq and the Security Council agree to do so. If one party objects, it will not be renewed. However, Iraq wants to lift the embargo completely in accordance with the cease-fire resolution. He added that the conditions stated in the Security Council resolution to lift the embargo no longer stand, as they have been fulfilled. Therefore, the Security Council should lift the embargo on the Iraqi oil exports.

Earlier, the United States contested an Iraqi plan proposed by the Iraqi Government to the UN General Assembly to distribute food. Al-Anbari said that his talks with the UN General Secretariat centered on drafting a new formula to implement the understanding agreement concluded between Iraq and the UN General Secretariat.

Iraq: Vice President Ramadan on Oil Exportation, Development Projects

JN1507203896 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan said our people's heroic stand and their steadfastness and defiance of the imperialist-Zionist forces of aggression under the wise leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn have enhanced the international status and the political position of our steadfast Iraq at the international forums.

During a meeting for the heads of departments in the al-Ta'mim Governorate, Ramadan added that the world is now standing alongside the Iraqi people, championing their just cause, and calling for lifting the unjust blockade imposed on them six years ago. He said Iraqi oil will find its way to international markets in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed by Iraq and the United Nations.

In the meeting, which was attended by comrade Sa'd Muhammad Yunus al-Ahmad, member of the Ba'th Party's Iraq Command and official in charge of the Ba'th Party Organizations in the governorates of al-Ta'mim, al-Sulaymaniyah, and Salah al-Din; Iyad Futayyih Khalifah al-Rawi, the al-Ta'mim governor; and the comrade secretary of the Ba'th Party's al-Ta'mim Branch Command, Ramadan also discussed the current development projects in some subdistricts of the al—Ta'mim governorate and the percentage of their accomplishment.

These projects include road networks, electricity and drinking water projects, and some services projects needed in these subdistricts. The attendees discussed a study submitted by the Antiquities Department to promote a number of cultural and archaeological sites in the governorate, Kirkuk's [word indistinct], and the al-Qaysariyah's large market.

The vice president urged the state's departments to provide the best services to citizens, double efforts according to the available resources, and adopt creative methods and alternatives to compensate for the shortage in some resources and promote the services in the governorate.

Iraq: 'Udayy's Control Over Economy, Trade Viewed

JN1407122296 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 12 Jul 96 pp 16-17

[Report by Sa'id al-Qaysi in Paris]

[FBIS Translated Text] The UN Security Council Resolution 986, otherwise known as the oil-for-food deal, is now at a delicate phase and in a stand-off that could yet see it unravel. This is the conventional wisdom among certain French circles. We are talking about a complex issue with a political backdrop. According to the French, there is more to the issue than the items Iraq would like to import as provided for in the resolution.

As one French official put it, this is a political issue, and Washington is looking for a way to keep Saddam Husayn from making financial and political capital of the implementation of the resolution. By accepting the resolution, the Frenchman adds, Saddam has managed to squirm out of the tight spot in which he put himself. He is now in a position to trade, buy, and secure $7 billion annually from the oil-for-food deal. Thus, the road is open from him to the numerous nations and companies lining up for commercial deals. He is now set to consolidate his position on the internal front and provide materially for his entourage and bodyguards and those who have profited from the sanctions, as well as any potential opponents. Without doubt, the president will dole out part of the proceeds to certain loyal tribes that he courted during his recent tour of tribal areas, during which he made many economic and political promises.

Saddam Husayn, according to the French source, will leave part of the revenue from the oil sales for himself and boost the amount of oil exports. Naturally, not all the subterfuge will be a 100 percent success, in view of the close monitoring of every deal by a mostly American special commission.

There are other ways, however, he may be able to cheat. There will be the possibility of concluding clandestine deals. Importers can raise their prices, and thus the government may be able to recoup part of the money. There is also the other outlet of making money through the transport of food. Despite the fact that the memorandum of understanding reached between Iraq and the United Nations mentions transport and specified a median tariff that does not permit transport deals at exorbitant costs, it is common knowledge in Washington and other Western quarters that the Iraqi regime controls dozens of state-run transport companies and joint Jordanian-Iraqi companies, as well as other "front" firms run by the Saddam family.

'Udayy's Network

Of course, the Frenchman adds, there are American objections to the items Iraq wants to import, like spare parts for helicopters that the Iraqi regime claims it uses to spray insecticides and spare computer and communications equipment. It has become clear to the U.S. Administration that Baghdad eventually went along with Resolution 986 after it made an exhaustive study of the possibilities and the potential to get around its provisions. Washington is convinced that the distribution plan devised by Baghdad and submitted to the UN Secretariat received the blessing of Saddam's elder son, 'Udayy, who controls a majority of Iraq's more important economic and commercial sectors. This has been the case since the Iraqi Cabinet's 35th session, which Saddam presided over on 13 September 1995. 'Udayy now controls the key departments of the Iraqi economy, and he has introduced some minor changes since he gained control over this sector, dismissing personnel formerly working for Husayn Kamil and shaking up things to ensure a firmer grip on finances.

The United States has obtained specific and detailed information about 'Udayy's network. For instance, following the grounding of Iraqi Airways, 'Udayy established "the Arab Freight Company," a joint Iraqi-Jordanian firm in which 'Udayy is the majority shareholder. The company handles the shipment of goods on chartered flights from abroad, before they are transported to Baghdad in trucks.

Iraqi and Jordanian merchants whose goods are carried on the planes of "the Arab Freight Company" and subsequently dispatched on 'Udayy's trucks receive preferential treatment when deals are granted.

A company affiliated with 'Udayy has a monopoly grip on internal and external transportation and boasts 700 big trucks. Other companies, with a combined ownership of no less than 2,200 trucks, are obliged to operate under the wing of 'Udayy's firm and have to obtain transportation permits from it in exchange for special tariffs. Last year, 'Udayy's firm registered $200 million in profits.

Obviously, the transactions will take place via Jordan. 'Udayy is pressing hard for this to remain so. There is intense competition between 'Udayy and his Geneva-based uncle, Barzan al-Tikriti, over this financially and politically sensitive matter. However, 'Udayy is now one up on his uncle. The latter sent one of his most trusted associates, Yusuf al-'Ani, to Amman. Al—'Ani also runs Barzan al-Tikriti's commercial network and now lives in Amman, where he presides over commercial transactions. Al-'Ani, well-informed Jordanian sources say, will purchase items through his clients in Jordan, particularly those who have stood by him. These will be the people who have recently traveled to Baghdad. Al-'Ani, who holds a position in the Iraqi Ministry of Commerce, is well-known in Jordan and was involved in the purchase of food items by 'Udayy over the past two years.

Working alongside al-'Ani will be Sabah Edward Ayyub, in his capacity as the new representative of a consortium of European companies in Iraq. Ayyub spends part of his time in a Gulf state. 'Ayyub's name figured in connection with "the Liaison Company for the Economic Interests of Iraqi and Czech and Slav Companies," which was suspected of involvement in the dispatch of banned materials to Iraq via Jordan. Ayyub worked with Muthanna Ahmad al-Tikriti, president of Brief Invest, an Amman-based firm that maintains branches in Baghdad and Prague and has a commercial network that includes some Gulf states. The company is said to have some experience in the area of camouflage.

Disagreement With Barzan

Washington is not in any doubt now that Saddam's elder son has consented to Resolution 986, once he was satisfied that he would participate in planning the distribution and would stand to benefit the most from the plan. The United States is aware that 'Udayy was opposed to Iraq consenting to the resolution, a position that put him on a collision course with supporters of Barzan al—Tikriti, who pressed for accepting 986 and even began to prepare to capitalize on the oil-for-food deal. Barzan, Jordanian sources report, had already begun striking deals with pharmaceutical firms in Switzerland. Negotiations with CIBA-GEIGY, the preeminent Swiss drug manufacturers, were said to be in an advanced stage.

According to the same sources, Barzan made several visits to Amman in the context of preparing for commercial deals. This so aroused 'Udayy's resentment that he threatened to disclose information implicating his uncle in the embezzlement of funds donated by Switzerland to cultural and religious establishments inside Iraq. 'Udayy is seeking to open an investigation into this and commercial transactions in which Barzan and Husayn Kamil were said to have been involved. Investigations got under way at the beginning of the year. 'Udayy is expected to press for speeding up the investigations if he cannot stand between Barzan and the conclusion of deals to supply medicine within the framework of Resolution 986.

'Udayy, according to knowledgeable Jordanian sources, still threatens to undo any agreement with the United Nations if he is not allocated a cut of the resultant money. They claim that 'Udayy is, in actual fact, "the tacit partner" of certain American quarters that are seeking to obstruct the implementation of Resolution 986. Saddam's elder son leans toward obstructing the application of the resolution.

'Udayy is said to have made a series of moves toward Syria lately. The Jordanian sources say that he sent some people to test the waters in Damascus about the possible reopening of the border between Syria and Iraq, in the event the Americans turned up the heat on Damascus and military cooperation increased between Turkey and Israel. According to the same sources, 'Udayy approached the Syrians with the idea of reactivating the oil pipeline across Syrian territory six months after the UN resolution was implemented, in exchange for the Syrians going along with the proposal to reopen the border. 'Udayy is said to have initiated the move toward Syria. He made this move known through the newspaper BABIL, in which he urged that the two sides "let bygones be bygones and start a clean slate so they can face fresh challenges."

Hence, argues the French official, there may be some delay in the implementation of Resolution 986. There is the real danger of a convergence of interests between 'Udayy and the U.S. Administration in blocking the oil-for-food deal. The Frenchman asks: "Who calls the shots in Baghdad?" He has no doubt that Saddam's sons, 'Udayy and Qusayy, are both taking a hard line. Qusayy had almost definitively closed the file of negotiations over the application of Resolution 986. It was he who opposed the inspection team entering the Republican Guards camps and took a determined stand against the UN Special Commission, in much the same manner as 'Udayy is now standing firm against making any concessions to win the oil-for-food deal.

Iraq: Sources Say Oil Exports May Begin by 'Second Half' of Month

NC1207134996 Cairo MENA in English
1258 GMT 12 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, 12 Jul (MENA)—Iraqi sources told MENA that the slow pace of the implementation of the Iraq-UN oil for food agreement has harmed Iraqis, especially with the recent price hike of basic goods and foodstuffs as the result of the rise of the dollar versus the Iraqi dinar.

Sources expressed optimism that the oil-for-food agreement will be soon set in motion and that measures required for its implementation will be finalized by next week, so that Iraq may be able to conclude deals and contracts to sell part of its oil and thus begin exporting them.

Iraq and the UN signed in May an agreement that would allow Iraq sell 2 billion dollars worth of its oil every six months in return for the purchase of food and medicines for its people, who have been suffering under a strict economic embargo imposed since 1990.

If everything goes well, Iraq may begin exporting oil to international markets by the second half of this month or towards its end at the latest, sources said.

Iraq: AL-JUMHURIYAH Analyzes Christopher-Netanyahu Remarks

JN1507123896 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Jun 96 pp 1,2

["Viewpoint" column by Chief Editor Salah al-Mukhtar: "What Are the Aims of the U.S. Coup?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The darkest hours are those just before dawn" — English novelist Charlotte Bronte.

It is most certain that the night of 26 June 1996 was one of great anxiety for Arab leaders like which they had not witnessed in 20 years! News agencies and television networks carried an unusual statement by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in which he said that "land for peace" is a general principle which Arab states will have to adjust according to reality when the peace talks with Israel are resumed. Christopher, who was on a visit to Israel, was commenting on a statement by Netanyahu, who rejected the "land for peace" principle and said that security, not peace is top priority. Thus, Christopher had no choice but to support Netanyahu and request the Arabs to accept his interpretation of peace! The first strong reaction came from the Egyptian media which violently attacked Christopher and openly accused him of backing Netanyahu's position and abandoning official U.S. policy which approves the "land for peace" principle.

What has happened, and what are its meanings, especially since Christopher's statements have been made after the "Cairo Summit 96," which endorsed the "land for peace" principle? Christopher's statements were expected, just as Netanyahu's victory in the elections was also expected and desirable from the U.S. viewpoint!

What has happened in the Arab homeland since 1993 is tantamount to very strong and firm indications which confirm that a general U.S. coup has taken place and that it is being implemented in stages to avoid the Arab situation from getting out of control, especially since the public in all Arab countries without exception are taking stands ranging from strong hatred toward the United States for its major crimes against Arabs and Muslims to disappointment and anxiety over U.S. policy, which has not giving anything to its Arab friends other than weakness, isolation, and embarrassment!

When we advised our Arab brethren to bide their time and listen to reason and logic before drifting behind dangerous emotions, and also warned them that what is happening to Iraq is only a prelude to what will happen to them later, they did not believe us. So, here they are now seeing with their own eyes that the Iraqi warnings were sincere. We have managed to stay alive despite being thrown in the well. We are now getting out of the well and clinging firmly to the edge of security. However, our brethren who have been pushed into the well, are holding only to a flimsy stick to prevent themselves from drowning. That stick will snap anytime unless they decide now, not an hour later, on the establishment of real solidarity among the major and basic Arab political forces. Their fall is inevitable and it will be most disastrous. In fact, the Iraqi people's suffering will be a picnic compared to the horrible suffering that awaits the Arab people, especially in Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Lebanon.

What are the indications of the U.S. coup? The most serious indication was the decision by the United States to stop counting on Egypt and Saudi Arabia as the political, military, and economic base for the regional order which it announced following the 30-state aggression on Iraq. The United States wanted full control over the region by exploiting Egypt's military and human resources and Saudi Arabia's financial assets, and the other parties would simply serve as mere support factors. Syria would also be a party to this order, but within certain limits which the United States had set for a number of reasons. Suddenly, however, and following the conclusion of the first "Jericho-Gaza" agreement, the first signs of a serious change began to appear. The United States shifted from counting on Egypt and Saudi Arabia as the base for the new regional arrangements to counting on Israel and Jordan as the base for the "Middle East Order," which is to be established.

To avoid direct provocation of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, the United States kept talking about their role in the proposed new regional order. Official dependence on the Damascus Declaration member states continued and invitations were sent out to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and others to attend the Casablanca and Amman summits etc.... But, 1995 witnessed final resolution of the issue as to which states are closest to the United States in the region. During the second half of 1995, and according to reports published in the U.S. press, it became completely clear that the United States had been planning and striving for the establishment of a totally new regional alliance consisting of a "federation" composed of Iraq, Jordan, and a very weak Palestinian entity, and a "confederation" composed of the Jordan-Iraq "federation" and Israel. This alliance would then be joined by Turkey and the United States.

The abovementioned five-state alliance was designed to become the base for the Middle East Order. However, this would necessitate the realization of two facts: First, the United States would make the role of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and the Gulf states a secondary one. Second, the five-state alliance would only be possible after containing Iraq, because Iraq with its striking force of human, economic, and technical resources constituted the biggest strategic power in the whole of the Middle East. If Iraq remained free and independent, the five-state alliance would never materialize. Thus, conditions in the region would deteriorate to a state of complete chaos which would not benefit anyone other than the advocates of national freedom and independence.

The first fact explains the secrets behind the deterioration in U.S. relations with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria, the increase in the causes of tension and estrangement, and the outbreaks of security, economic, and political crises in them. It also explains the phenomenon of estrangement between Jordan and those states.

The second fact explains the feverish activities by the United States and other parties against Iraq last year and this year, since the establishment of the [projected] federation, followed by the confederation, would be impossible without containing Iraq first. Thus, the United States and others threw in all the hidden precious reserves which they kept for such decisive moments in order to contain Iraq.

It was presumed that success in containing Iraq would create a new fait accompli; namely, the Baghdad-Jerusalem-Amman-Ankara axis would compel the other parties to accept any regional arrangements and deprive them of any room for maneuver. However, the management of the crisis developed into a real nightmare for the United States and all its friends when the incidents of the past 11 months proved that the United States' hidden, precious reserves in Iraq were no more than wooden horses which could not even move their legs! It also became obvious to everyone that conditions inside Iraq were strong enough to not only single out and isolate the wooden horses, but also to engage in a hot, multifaced conflict with the strongest and most evil empire in history for many years.

Just as the 30-state aggression and the allout economic embargo failed to prepare the atmosphere for the colonization of Iraq, the 1995 events determined Iraq's destiny for good, especially the Great March Day, on which Iraqis of all national backgrounds and affiliations decided with full freedom to say "yes" once again to the great leader, Saddam Husayn, as the symbol of Iraqi unity and Arab national honor.

Thus, it was only logical for the U.S. substitute — the establishment of a five-state alliance — to fizzle out, because the Arab base for the alliance; namely, Iraq, has remained a bastion for national honor, freedom, independence, and purity of imperialist filth. So, what is happening in this atmosphere? Abandonment of the Cairo-Riyadh axis for the sake of the Baghdad-Jerusalem-Amman-Ankara axis has confirmed that Washington no longer sees any basic use for the political regimes in Egypt, the Gulf states, and Syria. Thus, it is no longer possible to reconsider the situation and return to depending on the Riyadh-Cairo axis following the miserable failure to set up the substitute axis. To remedy this fault, the United States has resorted to a well-known traditional tactic in the game of nations, which is to shift the chess pawns in order to continue playing. This change has to include both its Arab friends and Israeli allies. Without changing the main players it will be impossible to change the course of the game.

In this sense and context, the rise of the Likud is the U.S.-Zionist reply to Iraq's resolution of the region's most complicated and dangerous conflict in this century in its interest forever. The settlement and the establishment of the Middle East Order have become impossible. The settlement, or what is termed comprehensive peace, is non-existent in this state of instability and continuous conflicts. The Middle East Order will never be established also while Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Iran are outside it, because they are the main economic powers in the region. Therefore, the Great March Day in Iraq was the official declaration of the actual death of the peace settlement on the one hand, and of the impossibility of establishing the Middle East order on the other.

The arrival of Netanyahu is clearly aimed at returning the negotiations with the Arabs to square one and returning the Arabs to their rings by force in order to make them accept the caesarean birth of a new regional regime, where Israel will be the absolute master and the Arab leaders will be no more than followers who carry out orders.

This serious aim calls for deep revolutionary and political changes in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states, Syria, and Jordan which will replace existing faces with new ones, which are not well-known and cause any sensitivities so that they can go ahead with the task of containing public opinion, neutralizing its hostile reactions to the United States and Zionism, and practicing totally different methods of collective brain washing.

Christoper's statements in support of Netanyahu which mean torpedoing the peace steps, U.S. charges against Egypt of buying missiles from North Korea while it supplies Israel with anti-missile missiles which are directed by laser, Netanyahu's call for an economic embargo on Syria, the incidents inside Saudi Arabia which are more vague than the successive explosions taking place there, and the security disturbances in Egypt, Syria, and the Arabian Gulf states; all these developments fall within the context of the new U.S. arrangements.

O honorable Arabs inside and outside authority, this is the plan of the United States and World Zionism; it is a plan to annihilate every Arab regardless of his ideological affiliation. The knife which butchered 1.25 million Iraqis is getting closer to your necks. So, unless you reconsider your position and see what you should have seen several years ago, you will definitely face a disaster. It will also be a disaster for us, because you are our brethren even if we differed. Blood will never turn water.

Open your eyes and see the blade of the U.S.-Zionist sword, which cut up the bodies of Iraqis, as it approaches your own bodies. We in Iraq are always a support for you. Place your trust in God and defend yourselves, your children, and your property.

Israel: Foreign Ministry Preparing Levi-'Arafat Meeting

TA1507171196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister David Levi says his office is making preparations for a meeting between himself and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. Levi said that, while such a meeting would take place, it would still require an examination of the subjects and frameworks.

The foreign minister later held talks with Jordanian Minister 'Umar al-Rifa'i [name and title as heard].

Israel: Netanyahu Aides To Meet With 'Arafat Before Cairo Visit

TA1507185196 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 15 Jul 96

[Report by political correspondent Dan Scemama]

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister's aides will meet with Yasir 'Arafat prior to Mr. Netanyahu's meeting with President Mubarak on 18 July. Mr. Netanyahu is not expected to discuss the solution to political problems in his meeting in Cairo; rather, he will acquaint his host with the elected government's stands. Our political correspondent Dan Scemama reports from the studio:

[Scemama] The prime minister will tell President Mubarak that Israel is committed to the political process, and political elements assess that the meeting between the prime minister's aides and 'Arafat on the eve of his departure for Cairo reflects progress in the dialogue between the new government and the Palestinian Authority [PA] .

As for the redeployment, Netanyahu will evidently tell President Mubarak what he told the U.S. President: It is a sensitive issue from the security standpoint, and just as we would not want Arabs to attack Jews, we do not want any more Goldsteins. After we formulate our stand — which will happen soon — we will discuss it with the Palestinians, Netanyahu will say.

Political elements stress that Israel will make demands of 'Arafat for certain actions that are not impossible, actions that will not cause the collapse of 'Arafat's rule. These demands are: Terrorists captured by the PA following the wave of terrorist attacks inside Israel must not be released; the PA should continue detaining and arresting persons suspected of organizing attacks in Israel; it should continue collecting weapons from unofficial groups; and a part — only a part, I stress — of the PA institutions operating in Jerusalem should be closed. This meeting between Netanyahu's aides and 'Arafat will be held prior to his visit to Egypt. It will be followed by additional meetings between aides and 'Arafat, and only after all these take place will David Levi, acting prime minister and foreign minister, meet with 'Arafat.

Israel: Mordekhay Calls For 'Closer Ties' to Egypt

TA1507170996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay says he expects the closure of the territories to be lifted in stages, but that this will be dependent upon the Palestinian Authority's [PA] crackdown on terror.

Mordekhay met today with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni. The two discussed the peace process, the security situation in the region, and other matters linked to the ties between the two countries.

Mordekhay called for closer ties between Israel and Egypt and asked that Egypt help locate Israeli servicemen missing from the 1973 war.

Israel: Levi Meets Jordanian Envoy, Reiterates Commitment to Peace

JN1607080496 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jordan's Ambassador to Israel 'Umar al-Rifa'i has held a meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi on the Israeli premier's latest visit to the United States and his forthcoming visit to Egypt and Jordan. During the talks, the Israeli foreign minister reiterated the Israeli Government's commitment to continue the peace process.

On his part, Mr. al-Rifa'i reiterated that Jordan's stand on the peace process is based on UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 as well as the principle of land for peace, Mr. al-Rifa'i also met with the Israeli Minister of Tourism Moshe Gatzav and discussed with him bilateral cooperation.

Israel: Defense Sources Warn PA Officials Against Hostile Remarks

TA1607110096 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jul pp A1, A2

[Report by Gay Bekhor, Eytan Rabin, Sami Sokol, and news agencies]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Foreign Minister David Levi met yesterday in Jerusalem with Jordanian Ambassador 'Umar al-Rifa'i. Levi told the Jordanian envoy that "the government would take steps to continue the dialogue with the Palestinian Authority [PA] on the basis of honoring agreements." Levi stressed that in Israel's view, the peace treaty with Jordan was a good example of peaceful relations between countries. Levi added that Israel considered the agreement to be a matter of national interest. Rifa'i delivered warm greetings to Levi from King Husayn and invited him to visit Amman in the very near future. A date for the visit has still not been set. [passage omitted]

In recent days, the defense establishment has been monitoring statements made by senior PA officials before closed forums and in interviews with the Palestinian media, in which they urged a confrontation with Israel and called for the resumption of the intifadah.

A senior officer said that "such hostile remarks by senior PA officials are incompatible with the agreements with Israel. We take a very serious view of these statements. The attempt to pressure Israel through threats could rupture contacts between the two sides."

Among other things, the defense officials are referring to statements made by senior PA official Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray']. Speaking in Gaza on 14 July, Abu-'Ala' said that the new Israeli Government had plunged the peace process into a crisis which could culminate in an explosion in the territories.

According to Abu-'Ala', "we are going through a real and very serious crisis. The peace process is frozen. The Israeli Government is presenting new challenges, and no can therefore anticipate the Palestinian reaction." When asked what could happen if this situation continued, Abu-'Ala' replied: "Undoubtedly, it may lead to a renewed flare-up."

Defense establishment sources said that "this can only be interpreted as a call to the residents to take to the streets. The PA has still not digested the Likud's rise to power in Israel, and 'Arafat is using senior PA officials to make his opposition to the new government clear to the Palestinian public."

According to the sources, "these belligerent statements have a great effect on the Palestinian public which welcomes them. These declarations are translated on the ground into violent demonstrations and firebombs in Hebron and elsewhere. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists participate in these demonstrations together with low-level Fatah operatives. One can already see popular activity in the field against IDF [Israel Defense Forces] units. We do not have a renewed intifadah yet, but the tension on the street is boiling over."

Israel: Territories Closure To Be Eased; Cabinet Meets on Netanyahu Trip

TA1607100996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet met this morning to hear reports about Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit to the United States. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports:

Prior to the report on the cabinet meeting, let me tell you about an announcement that is linked to the contacts with the Palestinian Authority [PA] and the prime minister's visit to Cairo this Thursday [18 July]. According to the announcement, the prime minister, the defense minister, and foreign minister yesterday decided on a series of measures intended to ease up the closure on the territories so as to alleviate the Palestinians' economic distress in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The precise details about these measures will be announced today. At any rate it seems that there is a link between this decision and contacts with the PA. The prime minister's bureau is not confirming reports emanating from Gaza to the effect that 'Arafat rejected a proposal by the prime minister's representatives to meet with him. The prime minister's bureau issued a laconic statement, saying that routine contacts continue and that the meeting between the prime minister's representatives and 'Arafat will take place prior to Binyamin Netanyahu's departure for Cairo.

As for the cabinet meeting, the cabinet heard reports especially about the meetings held by the prime minister and members of his entourage in the United States. The prime minister reported about his meetings with President Clinton, the U.S. secretaries of state and defense, and other U.S. Administration leaders. Bank of Israel Governor Frenkel reported about his meetings with economists, and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert reported about his meetings on Jerusalem affairs. The prime minister told the ministers that there is understanding and support for the new government's policy in the U.S. Administration and public. There is a wide segment of the U.S. nation that shows solidarity for Israel and its government, Netanyahu said. The ministers warmly congratulated him on the success of his visit as well as on his steadfastness with regard to Israel's interests. In any event, Netanyahu is now continuing his meetings on security affairs.

Israel: Levi Addresses Ambassadors on Regional Issues

TA1507122496 (Internet) Israel Information Service in English 14 Jul 96

[Address by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi to foreign ambassadors on 9 July; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ladies and Gentlemen, I am very glad we are having this meeting; I regard the dialogue that has to be ongoing between us as very important, in order that, through it, our message is also transmitted to your countries. Our message, as a new government just entering office, is a message of peace. We regard peace as a value, and therefore it is the core of our policy and of the basic guidelines of this government.

We mean this, we want to move toward implementing it, to achieve this great goal which has no equal, and toward security and existence. Naturally, there is no peace without security.

When I say there's no peace without security, I am thereby saying all peace lovers must confront the wave of terrorism: terror is a threat not only to Israel, but to the stability of the Middle East — and I would say also to other parts of the world. It is a threat to stability, a threat to governments working toward peace, and it is a threat to cooperation, to all who want to strive for a tomorrow of a dialogue of understanding, of ensuring a better future for the children of all the peoples here and throughout the world.

That is our conception of peace: therefore, peace and terrorism are not compatible, and terror has no boundaries. We saw this here in criminal attacks in the hearts of our cities, whose victims were innocent citizens, women, children, old people, soldiers and civilians alike, in explosions which do not discriminate between nationalities. And in a harvest of merciless bloodshed. There is no rationality in those who act in this way; therefore we are working, and shall strive, to advance the peace process and stand with all our might together with all those who really desire peace, against this destructive wave, this threat.

I would like to welcome here, since I feel a pleasant obligation, the Ambassador of Egypt with whom we made the first peace, and we place importance on continuing the dialogue between us and Egypt. It is a very important state. I hope the clouds casting a shadow on our relations will quickly pass. I had the opportunity to speak with my counterpart, 'Amr Musa, the Egyptian Foreign Minister. We know each other from my previous term here as foreign minister, and I hope that through a joint effort we can resolve the difficulties and serve as a model of what peace brings to the two peoples and the two countries.

That is my hope. I trust that, out of this basic principle, a more comradely style will emerge, calmer on both sides, and that we shall not start to compete on the international scene. I do not know who will prevail, but I know who will lose — both of us, Egypt and Israel. I do not want us to be among the losers, but those advancing and creating progress. That is my hope.

We have with us the Ambassador of Jordan, with whom we have also attained a peace agreement. The relations will develop, and Jordan too has a part and a commitment, as we have, regarding the same problems, to move forward together in cooperation, together with Egypt, for, in truth, the time has come to remove all misunderstanding. Neither side imposes on the other any obligation to do things; we shall work together. I am convinced of this.

We also have here today the representative of Morocco. You will understand that I have a special sensitivity; it is the country where I was born and grew up, a country with a fine population, very tolerant, a colorful country; and I want here to really express my pleasure in being able to greet and welcome the envoy of Morocco to Israel.

Tunisia — we used to say Green Tunisia, "Tunis al-Khadhra." I am very glad to see the envoy of Tunisia here. I had the opportunity to meet with Tunisian industrialists and entrepreneurs who are really full of hope and the wish to cooperate. We shall continue to cooperate and strengthen the relations between our countries.

On the overall map of peace — peace will take over from the Middle East and on to North Africa. Among people who want to see a different, better, tomorrow — and there is nothing like dialogue. And with the representative of Mauritania, I would also recall that I remember from my youth the dispute between Mauritania and Morocco, the country of my birth, and every dispute ended in peace.

I want to wish us, with everything happening now, that we shall see the conclusion of our efforts for peace, which will bring smiles to the faces of the people, of mothers and their children. That is our hope. The government does not ask for months to establish its position: certainly not years to forge a policy or a political line, despite the complexity of the situation with its many obstacles.

From the first day — and it hasn't yet been a month since we entered office — we raised the issue of peace and of achieving it to the top of our concerns, and in these very days were are carrying out in practice everything that has worked, is working today. In cooperation, at different levels, between us and the Palestinian Authority. Today, too, an international conference of donor countries is convening in Gaza, among whom Israel participates together with the Palestinian Authority, and we shall continue to work so the dialogue between us will bear fruit, and we shall do away with suspicion and break a path through to work together.

Israel — the Government of Israel — will carry out its international obligations and expects the other side to implement its part fully, because if that doesn't happen, we shall not advance. We are also forging the appropriate frameworks, the creation of contacts by special envoys; we have met with members of the Palestinian Authority and even with its Chairman 'Arafat. We have conveyed messages so there should not be misunderstandings, and in order to work out together the suitable frameworks for discussion at the highest level, that is, the Government and the Authority.

We shall attain this, and it is a matter which is crystallizing. I say these things so all may know that what we perceive as a line of action must also be based on seriousness, on responsibility, on a joint stand in the face of the threat menacing both parties. If we are frank and really say what is troubling us, what endangers security, and the other side acts accordingly and with understanding between us, then the path also toward meeting for the final-status settlement will be a paved road. I hope for this, and of course shall do everything I can to do it. And it's not a little....

Until Madrid, the situation was much more difficult. It appeared that a meeting between Israel and the Arab countries was an impossible objective, there were many obstacles in the way. There were also psychological barriers, and we crossed them with hard work and reached Madrid, and things moved ahead, and we shall move them in the correct direction. What is ahead of us today is the continuation toward completion (of the process) — but understand one basic thing: I say it, and repeat it here and everywhere: the people of Israel will no longer tolerate its blood being spilt in the name of peace.

Peace is meant to prevent bloodshed; the term "victims of peace" is not acceptable to us. No enlightened person, no one who has eyes in his head, can accept the notion of "victims of peace." We want a wall against terror, we want to prevent bloodshed. We want to talk without pressure and without threats. We want to work together against any element that tries to upset the consolidating, desirable, stability in this region of the world.

Israel will do everything while insisting on this basic principle; for Heaven forbid that there is a renewal and the most awful thing happens, which is that the people of Israel despair of peace. Despair.... Things can reach a certain limit, that if the people cannot endure it, they despair of peace. And Heaven forbid, but I see this as the greatest danger; that the people of Israel do not want peace, while its government wants peace. Our partners in peace must stand against the enemy of peace, which is terrorism. I hope we shall succeed in putting up a wall against this threat, in uprooting it and its infrastructure, and people of understanding and goodwill, will begin to advance toward peace, and to talk in a different atmosphere.

As for Syria, we do not want to isolate Syria, despite what people say. We want peace, we want to talk. When we say without prior conditions, I want to repeat and emphasize this principle, which is accepted all over the world — one side does not impose on the other its stand as a condition for talking. This principle must be realized. We have our stand and we are not imposing it on Syria. Syria has a position; that is legitimate; but she cannot impose it on us as a condition for talks, as a condition for negotiations.

We expect that Syria — if it wants peace — and we do want peace — will oppose terrorism. They do not go together, and do not create trust. More than once, it has required a reaction; and we have already seen what the need to react causes. We can move ahead, and when there are terrible events which impel you to react, you go right back to your starting point. And so reason requires the elimination of terrorism, condemnation of terrorism, and statesmen exist for that. I want to hope that this message will be registered: it is not a dictate, but a hope.

In the same way as peace is also not a dictate, it is more than a wish, it is a commandment for responsible people, working for the sake of achieving peace. But they cannot do this and will not succeed if one side holds an olive branch and the other resorts to terrorism. They do not go together. In the war between these two concepts, either the olive branch or the terrorist weapon will fall. I would prefer the weapon to fall, leaving the olive branch intact; and we could then talk and advance and really understand, each understanding the other's difficulties, in their joint determination to make progress.

The Lebanese drama is also known to all. We want a sovereign Lebanon, and do not want a single millimeter of its territory. We are there only because we have been forced to protect our towns and villages and our citizens; and we hope Lebanon will revert to having a tranquil life and to being a neighbor with whom we can live in peace. All in all, peace is possible; but for its sake, decisions must be made, and statesmen are required to take decisions — decisions for peace.

A tense atmosphere brings with it threatening clouds. The skies of the Middle East, even after the peace with Egypt drove away many clouds, are still clouded with many difficulties and obstacles. But we pray for rain clouds, and no others. I hope there will not be any other clouds and we shall be able to work together for the same rains, the rains of the blessing which is peace.

We have worked — and I was the initiator at the time of a multilateral dialogue — to bring about talks to search for ways to serve the entire region. From the start, many were skeptical. I remember the first gathering in Moscow, where we founded this additional parallel process to talk about subjects in which, if there was no cooperation and help from everyone, international help, we could not change situations.

This country has many dreamers: but we have also converted a dream into reality in very difficult conditions. All we have gone through has gained us great experience which can prevent others from also going through the same things. There are very hard problems in almost every field. In this multilateral axis, we could for the first time think together about these difficult problems which each, separately, could not solve. They are basic issues: on the question of water resources, experts have met, and work is proceeding, which is precious beyond measure, and truly forming the basis and a working plan for the good of the entire region.

And in the field of regional development — and I shall not detail all the other aspects, whether in medicine, pest control, natural dangers, diseases, etc. — for the first time channels of conversation have opened up between people. People generate hope and turn it into reality only when they talk. And when they are not talking about war, they are talking of cooperation, thinking together, about the same things which give live. Then we slowly get a new reality being created. We intend to continue along this channel, and convince our friends in the world, both the Americans and the Europeans and the Russians.

On this occasion, I should like to work to advance the relations between us and Russia from their current level to that they stood at some years ago, when they were very good. We should go back to where at least there will not be a situation resulting from a lack of dialogue or understanding. We are truly not interested in confronting anyone, but in maintaining cooperation and dialogue with all.

We also want to work to strengthen the relations with all your countries, to advance bilateral ties; and I would be very happy not just to have this meeting regularly at fixed times, but also — though you will understand that is not possible at this period because of the pressure of work — to meet each of you individually as a partner in dialogue, for clarification and updating. My door will be open, and I shall see to it that these meetings occur. On this occasion, I want to thank those who congratulated me, and to greet you as partners, whom I would be very glad to work with.

Relations with this country have a special character: I have met ambassadors who have served here, and always carry in their hearts the fond memories of their service here. I also would like to hear any ideas you may have from time to time to advance these themes — I would be most happy.

But, in a truly friendly spirit, I should like to warn that we shall not return to a situation in which blocs of countries, on matters involving us and the region, start making decisions. Unilateral decisions do not, and will not, contribute anything; they can only harm the peace process.

For all such decisions will bring in their wake other decisions. Anyone adopting decisions on their own to force us (to act) cannot be an open, responsible, cooperative, partner if they are perceived as taking decisions against us. That period is over. The world is no longer divided into blocs, neither three blocs, non-aligned, or aligned. The world today comprises one interest — that of existence. Another interest, international cooperation to advance matters, is a common interest of all countries.

Therefore, I should like to see beyond this special task: each of you is his country's flag here: I should like to feel the presence of not just the flag, but the strong flagpole bearing it, which should not fall. I extend my hand warmly in conveying the message of understanding, as those flags fly here in our freedom-loving country which dreams of peace and is doing everything to achieve it.

Israel: Knesset Defeats 4 No-Confidence Motions Against Netanyahu

TA1507182796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset has defeated four motions of no confidence in the prime minister submitted by opposition factions. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the Knesset held four separate votes on the four motions. Thirty-eight Knesset members [MK's] voted in favor of Labor's no-confidence motion, 53 voted against, and three abstained. The Meretz and HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] motions were supported by 40 MK's, 56 voted against, and one abstained. In the fourth vote on the Arab Democratic Party's motion of no confidence, 41 MK's voted for, 56 voted against, and there were no abstentions.

Our correspondent notes that this was the first time the Knesset held a vote on a motion of no confidence against the prime minister since the new Law for the Direct Election of the Prime Minister was passed.

Meretz MK Avraham Poraz did not participate in the vote, because he supports the government's economic plan in principle. He said that since a budget reduction is inevitable, the cuts proposed by the government should not be hampered.

Israel: Stock Market Continues To Fall, Hits 8-Month Low

TA1607103596 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 16 Jul 96 p 9

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Stock indexes sank for a ninth day yesterday hitting their lowest level in eight months, amid expectations for rising consumer prices and unchanged interest rates.

After the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange closed for the day, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced that the consumer price index rose 0.7 percent in June, below expectations. But even the lower-than-expected CPI increase won't prompt a change in interest rates, said analysts. [passage omitted]

The Moaf Index fell 3.29 percent to 189.38 and the Mishtanim Index fell 3.03 percent to 178.16. The last time the Maof Index was lower was November 15, when it closed at 189.05.

Of 989 shares trading across the exchange, more than seven times as many shares fell as rose. Some NIS [new Israelis shekels] 98.1 million worth of shares changed hands, NIS 29.2m. above Sunday's [14 July] level and about NIS 35m. above this month's average daily trading level.

The Moaf Index has declined some 11 percent since June 24, when the Central Bank announced it would increase interest rates.

Jordan: King Receives Message From Clinton, Telephone Call From Chirac

JN1507171696 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received a message from U.S. President Clinton today within the framework of joint consultation and coordination on the peace process, and the need to continue this process and build on what has already been achieved toward a comprehensive and lasting peace, which is what all of the people of the region want.

In his message to His Majesty King Husayn, the U.S. President stressed his country's commitment to sponsoring and supporting the peace process and to doing everything that will enable this process to achieve its objectives. Moreover, the message dealt with the distinguished relations between the two friendly countries and ways to reinforce and develop these relations.

His Majesty King Husayn received a telephone call from His Excellency French President Jacques Chirac today. The two leaders exchanged viewpoints on the latest developments in the peace process. They stressed the need to continue this process and enable it to overcome any obstacles it may encounter. President Chirac briefed His Majesty King Husayn on the results of his visit to the Gulf region and his talks with senior officials.

The two leaders also discussed the distinguished Jordanian-French relations and ways to reinforce them as well as the French foreign minister's upcoming visit to the region.

Jordan: King, Israeli Prime Minister Discuss Peace Process Over Phone

JN1507201496 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 15 Jul 96

[Announcer-read report; from the "News at Ten"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There have been more contacts today aimed at keeping the Middle East peace process on track. His majesty the king and the Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who called his majesty today, discussed developments of the peace process. The king said the process should continue in order to achieve a lasting peace in the region.

Jordan: Information Minister on Netanyahu Visit, Other Issues

JN1607102496 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jul 96 p 25

[Report by Hani al-Duwayk]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Information Minister Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir said the Council of Ministers is still studying a mechanism to implement the decision to raise the price of bread by a maximum of 250 fils per kilo and to deliver subsidies to all Jordanian citizens. He said the decision will not be implemented before making sure that subsidies will be delivered to citizens in an easy, transparent way and without problems. The mechanism of implementation should be very precise. All arrangements will be made before issuing this decision.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir made these remarks at his weekly Monday press briefing with local and foreign journalists. [passage omitted]

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said the government's attitude toward the Israeli prime minister and his new government is clear. The brother Arabs expressed a similar attitude at the recent Cairo summit. The government feels that judging Israel's position should be based on practices and not statements.

He added: We have heard statements from Mr. Netanyahu with which we are not satisfied. There is no doubt about that. Therefore, when he visits Jordan on 25 July we will reassert Jordan's demand that the peace process be resumed in accordance with the Madrid terms of reference agreed on by all the parties. If the Israeli side wants to resume the peace process and to build on what was achieved, then we are ready. If the Israeli side has other views, however, then let us leave the ball in the Israeli court.

Al-Mu'ashshir added: We want to give Mr. Netanyahu a chance. We will listen to what he has to say and let him hear what we have to say, especially since we have not yet sat down with him. We will hold in-depth talks with him to learn about his views and future policies and to brief him on our view of the peace process.

He said: We in Jordan do not want to stop the peace process. We want to bring the Israeli view closer to the Arab view, instead of giving pretexts and excuses that drive the Israeli Government to adopt hard-line positions.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir confirmed that there is Jordanian-Palestinian coordination. It was agreed during President 'Arafat's recent visit to al—'Aqabah that there should be coordination. We also agreed on the issues which we want to raise with the Israeli side, especially regarding resuming the negotiations. Our top priority at this stage is resuming the negotiations on the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks.

He said the negotiations with the Israeli Government will not be easy. He added: I will not say that I am satisfied. I will say that I am committed to continuing the peace process to achieve my objectives. There are no fixed positions in politics. There is flexibility. We have to wait and see how the Israeli Government will reply — in practice and not in words — to Arab policies.

On the issue of water, he said: The Jordanian-Israeli treaty deals with this issue. We are currently holding serious talks with the Israeli side on this issue, and it will be raised with Netanyahu when he comes to Jordan. Israel should adhere to the treaty and Jordan should get an additional 50 million cubic meters.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir disclosed that contacts and meetings have been held with the new Israeli Government to enable the two sides to explore each other's stands.

Answering a question by AL-DUSTUR on reports that the United States asked the Jordanian Government to set up a U.S. military base on Jordanian territory, he said: There is no such U.S. request. The government's position is well known and has not changed; namely, that Jordan will not set up U.S. military bases on its territory. He added that all the U.S. forces that took part in the expeditionary operation, which ended on 28 June 1996, have left Jordan. In addition, the Marine forces that took part in the exercise with these forces, which ended on 10 July, have also left Jordan.

The information minister denied any knowledge of arrests among Jordanian students at Iraqi universities. [passage omitted]

Jordan: Information Minister Notes Preparations for King-al-Asad Meeting

JN1607093396 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 16 Jul 96 pp 1, 20

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Information Minister Dr. Marwan al- Mu'ashshir expected that a summit will be held between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus soon. He said that preparations are under way for holding this important summit.

During his weekly Monday meeting with the local and Arab press, he said that no date has been set yet for the meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee, saying that it will meet following the two leaders' summit.

Regarding the Israeli prime minister's expected visit to Amman, Dr. al—Mu'ashshir said it will take place on 25 July following his visit to Cairo, adding that the date of Netanyahu's visit was delayed due to His Majesty King Husayn's commitments outside the kingdom within the next few days.

In another development, it was learned from a responsible government source that His Majesty King Husayn will visit the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia soon to hold a summit with Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and that arrangements are under way for holding this summit.

Jordan: Parliament Discusses Weekly Press, National Unity

JN1607101196 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 16 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Tariq Momani; "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Parliament Monday held a four-hour informal meeting to discuss what was described by its Speaker Sa'd Hayil Srur as "certain unacceptable practices by local newspapers concerning national unity and coverage of topics that are considered offensive to the public taste and the ethics of Islam."

Mr. Srur said after the meeting that "deputies of various political affiliations who expressed their views at the session were unanimous in their demand that freedom of expression for all Jordanians must be guaranteed provided that such freedom does not infringe on national unity in any way."

"The Lower House of Parliament serves as the country's main forum for exercising political pluralism and free expression and, acting in this spirit, the deputies have discussed what should be done and came to an agreement that the law must be strictly applied in cases where violations against national unity have been committed in writings, seminars, lectures or other means and also in any infringement made against the Arab and Islamic ethics and values, said Mr. Srur.

He said that the deputies have agreed that "if need be, Parliament will issue new legislation to deal with any loopholes in the existing laws to safeguard national unity and the deputies have decided for the time being to create a committee which will meet Tuesday to draft a statement with regard to these two issues summing up the views of law makers who addressed the meeting and also suggesting the appropriate mechanism for dealing with violations of this kind."

Speaking during the meeting held at the hall of pictures, Islamic Action Front Party Deputy Bassam al-'Umush asked what procedures had the government taken against those writers from the self-rule areas of Palestine who he claimed write articles in the Jordanian press "sowing seeds of dissension and sedition in their writings."

Another Islamic Action Front Party Deputy Muhammad al-Haj demanded that the government be strict with those whose writings he said tend to harm national unity.

Deputy 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Rawabidah demanded that the government not allow any group opposed to another Arab regime to function from Jordan and not allow any citizen to have dual political affiliation. He demanded that the law be strictly applied against "those who try to stir regional, ethnic or sectarian disturbances through their writings in any publication."

Syria: Radio Cites '2 Main Points' in Muscat Final Communique

JN1507150496 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Jul 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: The final communique issued by the foreign ministers of the Damascus Declaration member states, who ended their meetings in the Sultanate of Oman yesterday, emphasized two main points concerning the peace process in the region.

The first point is that resuming negotiations calls for honoring the bases and principles of the peace process, particularly Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 425, the land-for-peace formula, and the reassurances made to the parties concerned.

The second point is that the Israeli Government's insistence on clinging on to its no's—refusing to pull out its forces from the Golan, rejecting the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, and rejecting discussion on the future of Jerusalem on the pretext that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital—will lead to the collapse of the peace process. This will also bring about dangers and hazards that will eventually place the region in a whirlpool of tension, forcing all Arab states to reconsider the steps taken toward Israel within the framework of the peace process.

These two points affirm what was emphasized at the tripartite Damascus summit and the Arab reunion summit in Cairo in view of the developments that have recently emerged in the region following the assumption of power by the extremist Israeli right wing, which totally dismissed the land-for-peace formula.

The Arab position did not close its door on peace, but reiterated its adherence to the bases and principles from which the peace process was first launched. When Netanyahu's government talks about its own peace perspective, it is in fact referring to a new formula that blows up the very bases of the peace process and everything that has been achieved in this respect.

The Security Council resolutions aimed at resolving the conflict abjure taking other people's lands by force and call on Israel to pull out its forces to the 4 June 1967 borders, in return for a peace that guarantees security for all parties.

The Israeli Government's excuse that it cannot make any more concessions, as it puts it, is a fragile one because Israel will not be making a concession when it gives up the Arab lands it occupies. What Israel will gain in return for ending its occupation is the Arab people's acceptance of making peace with it. If such a peace is realized, it will bring about security for Israel—-something it has been using as a pretext to evade the peace process and keep all the Arab lands it occupies, including Arab Jerusalem, under its control.

In clinging on to its declared antipeace positions, and in failing to adopt a stand similar to that of the Arabs—taking into account that peace is the only option that will guarantee equal [mutasawi] and equitable [mutakafi'] security for all—Netanyahu's government will prompt the Arab states to reconsider the steps taken toward Israel within the framework of the peace process. Any departure from the basis and principles of the peace process is a violation of international legitimacy resolutions, which will give rise to serious repercussions whose impact will not only affect the region, but go beyond that to the international arena.

Syria: Information Minister Says Netanyahu, Not U.S., Threatening Peace

JN1507171096 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement to AFP, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman noted that Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, not the United States, is the party threatening to torpedo the bases of the peace process. Minister Salman described Syrian-U.S. relations as coordination relations regarding the peace process.

Minister Salman said that Jordan's King Husayn intends to visit Syria to continue the talks, which were held in Cairo, in connection with the Arab summit at the end June between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the Jordanian monarch. Salman said that contacts are under way to set the date of the visit.

Regarding Jordanian accusations on the infiltration of Palestinian elements to Jordan from Syria, the Syrian minister said that the movement of Palestinians between Syria and Jordan is not new. He added that the Damascus—based Palestinian organizations were originally founded in Jordan and have branches there. He reiterated that Syria does not intervene in the Palestinians' internal affairs.

Regarding the visit to Syria by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, Minister Salman said: The Palestinian leader asked to visit Damascus, and contacts are under way to set the date of the visit.

Syria: AL-BA'TH Notes Israel's 'Hostile and Devastating' Peace Stand

JN1607072696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0447 GMT 16 Jul 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its commentary, AL-BA'TH newspaper stresses the importance of a just and comprehensive peace in the region, especially since it is a regional and international demand as much as it is an Arab demand. This is because world peace is basically linked to Middle East peace.

Under the headline "The World Should Assume its Responsibility Toward the Peace Process," the paper says: The Middle East region enjoys a strategic location, natural and human resources, and relations with all world states and their economic and political blocs. The peace process could have succeeded and achieved the aspired peace had it not been for Israel's hostile and devastating stands toward a just and comprehensive peace and its refusal to abide by any of the agreed principles within the framework of the Madrid formula.

AL-BA'TH says: Israel has succeeded in derailing the peace process from its course through the signing of partial and separate agreements. These agreements reflected negatively on the just and comprehensive peace and the Arab nation's interests and pan-Arab security. In form and content, these agreements serve Israel's interests.

Concluding its commentary, the paper holds Israel responsible for the current situation of the peace process as a result of its intransigence and rejection of the bases of a just and comprehensive peace, and for the region's return to confrontation and explosion, something which poses a serious threat to the security, peace, and stability of the entire world.

Syria: TISHRIN Says Zionism 'Main Incubator' of Terrorism

JN1607091896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0447 GMT 16 Jul 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN comments on the exaggeration of the Zionist movement and Israel in tarnishing the Arabs' reputation with the aim of concealing Israel's expansionist and hostile nature and obliterating the fact that Zionism is the side which introduced all forms of terrorism to the region. Through its racist ideology and brutal actions, Zionism represents the main incubator of violence and terrorism in the entire world.

TISHRIN says: We do not want to review all the chapters of the terrorist record of Zionism, which includes both bloody and intellectual terrorism, because they are many.

The paper adds: Anyone who dares to tell the truth and removes the dust of delusion, distortion, and forgery from history and the true state of affairs will be exposed to the ready-made accusations. The Zionist kitchen concocted a formula of accusations to be used against any person, movement, or intellectual current which refuses to resign itself to lies and nonsense, such as anti—Semitism and encouragement of terrorism. French philosopher and intellectual Roger Garaudy is being exposed to threats and the confiscation of his books. The French and Western news media are prevented from dealing with this intellectual. He is being hounded by threats of liquidation. All that Garaudy said is that he is now convinced that lies and forgery are the two qualities which characterize the Zionists' claims and allegations. The Zionists were displeased with this so they decided to carry out all forms of intellectual terrorism against him.

TISHRIN says: The Zionist movement's stand toward those writers, journalists, and intellectuals who opposed Israel's expansionist and hostile plan proves anew Zionism's racist nature and hostility to mankind.

The paper adds: Terrorism has always been and is still the main characteristic of the Zionist leaders.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: If the international community is really serious about eradicating terrorism, the first step should be to besiege the incubator of terrorism; namely, Zionism and its pillar, Israel, and remove its racist fangs.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Hekmatyar Sends Message to Chernomyrdin on Expanding Ties

LD1407151896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 14 Jul 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Golboddin Hekmatyar, the Afghan prime minister, in sent a message on Saturday [13 July] to his Russian counterpart, Viktor Chernomyrdin, calling for expansion of ties with that country in various spheres.

Hekmatyar thanked Chernomyrdin for his message and added that the current positive changes in that country have created a good climate for further expansion of ties between the two countries.

Viktor Chernomyrdin sent a message to Golboddin Hekmatyar last week, congratulating him on his appointment as the Afghan prime minister and calling for expansion of ties between Kabul and Moscow.

Afghanistan: Spokesman, Commander Comment on Taleban Pilot's Defection

BK1607110696 Hong Kong AFP in English 1052 GMT 16 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, July 16 (AFP) — A pilot with the Taleban militia defected to the Afghan government Tuesday [16 July], surrendering himself and his MiG 21 fighter armed with four precious missiles to the military here, senior army sources said.

Pilot Abdul Jalil flew the jet low over the beseiged Afghan capital early Tuesday before landing the Russian-built aircraft at the government's main military base near here, they said. The defection of the pilot and his jet is likely to deal a very severe blow to the Taleban war machine as the Islamic warriors had only four or five air-worthy jets in their fleet, military analysts said. The MIG-21 was armed with four air-to-air missiles, a government source said.

"These missiles are very important as they are very few in the country and they are extremely accurate," said Amrullah, spokesman for President Borhanoddin Rabbani's top commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud. Amrullah also revealed that military authorities had been expecting Jalil's defection for months.

"He has been working for us for several months and we were expecting him today," he said.

Earlier a military official had said the defection was unplanned.

Jalil was a general in the Taleban forces and had been trained by the Russian military.

"The pilot flew from the Taleban base at Kandahar and surrendered himself and his plane to our forces at 10:50 a.m. (0525 GMT)," said General Moslem, a senior government commander.

"He had been sent out on a routine patrol, but instead he bravely landed the plane and gave himself and his aircraft up," he added.

Moslem, speaking before Amrullah, had said the pilot decided to defect "spectacularly and suddenly" as he was "disillusioned with the Taleban leadership and system."

"He could have been shot out of the sky by our men, but he got in contact with the control tower and was quickly allowed to land," he added.

Kabul is surrounded on three sides by the Taleban, who have vowed to topple the Rabbani government.

The jet circled the city twice at low altitude before heading for Bagram airfield, 50 kilometers (38 miles) north of here.

Government anti-aircraft batteries opened fire on the speeding aircraft as it dived over Kabul but failed to hit it.

Shoppers in the battered city's bazaar's screamed and fled when the enemy jet bearing camouflage markings swooped down over Kabul before streaking away to the east of the city.

"Children were crying and everybody was trying to take cover wherever they could fearing the Taleban were going to bomb the city again," one shaken shopper said.

About 60 people were killed here in two aerial bombing raids carried out by the Taleban last November. The Islamic warriors admitted carrying out the raids, but said no civilian targets had been hit.

Tuesday's dramatic defection, which was confirmed by independent sources, was the first between the warring Afghan factions in the four years since the former Mojahedin fighters took power, observers said.

Jalil was head [word indistinct] Taleban's department of political affairs at Kandahar military airport, Moslem said.

He was due to meet some of Kabul's top political and military figures later Tuesday for briefing sessions, sources here said.

"This move will certainly hurt the Taleban as they can't afford to lose aircraft or trained pilots which are rare commodities in this country," a source said.

Commanders and soldiers have regularly defected to other warring factions in Afghanistan's complicated and protracted civil war, but few such switches in allegiance have been so dramatic.

It came just three weeks after former opposition leader Golboddin Hekmatyar joined his former enemies in the Kabul government apparently to form a new alliance against the militiamen, analysts said.

If other factions negotiating a possible role on the Kabul administration also joined the government, most former mojahedin groups would be effectively allied against the Taleban who have refused to negotiate with Kabul.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh: Foreign Minister Says Government To Strengthen U.S. Ties

BK1507150696 Dhaka THE DAILY STAR in English 7 Jul 96 pp 1, 12

[Unattributed Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister, Abdus Samad Azad, said yesterday that the Awami League government would make endeavours to strengthen relations with all countries for achieving expeditious economic progress of Bangladesh.

Emphasising the need for economic diplomacy he said the foreign policy objective will best be served through all out efforts to promote trade and economic relations with the Western, neighbouring and Muslim countries.

In an interview with BSS at his office he said foreign policy must reflect internal policy of the government, and he added, economic self-reliance helps the country to assert its sovereignty.

"We ourselves have to take all-out initiative to achieve a self-reliant economy using modern technology and creating employment opportunities in a faster pace with participation of all sections of the people," he said.

He said in the present day context economic diplomacy was needed to develop the country's economy by expanding external trade, creating market for Bangladesh commodities abroad and creating employment opportunities both at home and abroad.

Samad Azad said the foreign ministry would work in accordance with the need of the time and people working here must have accountability.

Replying to question, he said priority would be given to resolve all outstanding problems with the neighbouring countries including India with which Bangladesh has a long common border. In this context, he stressed the need to arrive at solution of the long standing Ganges water sharing problem and said scarcity of water during lean period has been affecting the economy of Bangladesh. The balance of trade between the two countries is also an important issue, he added.

He said India has shown interest to resolve bilateral problems with Bangladesh. Asked about the reaction to the message sent to him by his Indian counterpart I.K. Gujral, he said it was a "beginning of a new avenue to be explored by both the newly-elected governments."

Samad Azad said he was confident that the bilateral problems with India would be resolved to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

He said that now both the sides should make renewed efforts to meet frequently and discuss all bilateral issues to reach solutions.

The foreign minister emphasised on strengthening further the economic cooperation among the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] member countries for common benefit.

He said Bangladesh's relations with Muslim countries would be strengthened further. In this context, he recalled that it was Bangabandhu's [Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, father of the nation] government which laid the foundation of promoting Bangladesh's relations with Muslim countries immediately after liberation. He said Bangabandhu attended the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] summit in Pakistan in 1973 following which relations with Muslim countries was strengthened.

Asked what would be the Bangladesh's relation with the United States following the changed global scenario, the foreign minister said Awami League had excellent relations with the United States even before the party came to power.

He said the United States had welcomed the June 12 general election in Bangladesh and added that the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would further strengthen the ties with the United States.

On China, Abdus Samad Azad recalled that it was the Awami League government of late Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy in the then Pakistan which had established diplomatic ties with China in 1956.

He referred to the visit of Sheikh Hasina to China in 1993 as the Bangladesh's opposition leader. He said good relations already existed between the Awami League and the Chinese Communist Party and now the government to government relations would be promoted through economic cooperation.

In reply to a question, the foreign minister said the Awami League government was the builder of strong

Bangladesh-Japan friendly relation in the wake of the nation's Liberation War.

Bangladesh: India Supports 'Package Deal' To Resolve Bilateral Problems

BK1207153396 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 9 Jul 96 p 1, 11

[Report by special correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] The talks for resolving the bilateral problems between Bangladesh and India, which have recently been initiated by Salman Haider, foreign secretary of India, has created certain expectations among the people of this country. Despite this, doubts regarding the good intentions of India to resolve these issues have not been totally removed. Everybody has confidence in the profound wisdom of Abdus Samad Azad, foreign minister of Bangladesh, and hopes that he will be able to properly evaluate the long-time sweet and sour relationship between the two countries. What do the people of this country want? Do the people of this country want to continue a dispute with India for generations or do they want to build their relationship on the basis of mutual self-respect? No one needs to explain this to Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad who has a long political experience. Among others, the desires and expectations of the people of this country are that they want to get their lawful share of the river waters from India; they want that the tension along the border should come to an end; and that trading facilities are granted to them on a uniform basis.

India wants transit facilities from Bangladesh in order to establish communication links with its eastern states. It also wants Bangladesh as its ally in international fora. India wants assurance that Bangladesh will not behave with India in a manner similar to that of Pakistan. It is essential that Bangladesh and India should take joint initiatives for resolving all these urgent issues; however nobody wants Bangladesh to become a "surrogate" [word as published] of India through this joint initiative.

Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider during his visit to Bangladesh has repeatedly stated one thing — that he has not come with any mandate for holding talks but has only come carrying a message. His message carrying may be a minor task. During his three-day long mission, he held talks with Bangladesh political leaders at different levels and senior government officials. This proves that he has initiated a dialogue on issues on which there exists difference of opinion between this country and India. It has been learnt from Foreign Ministry sources that India actually wants to bring a package deal on all issues. Reports have been published in newspapers regarding the discussions that have been held on the issue of linking the transit issue with the water-sharing issue. This is only a part of the overall issues.

In an interview with a correspondent of an English daily, the Indian foreign secretary said that India considers the transit issue as the main issue. He has not directly linked the water-sharing issue with the transit issue, but there is no doubt that India wants transit facilities. India has created the water problem for Bangladesh by constructing the Farakka barrage. Now, our question is that if there was no Farakka barrage and if India needed this transit facility then: Would it have been possible for India to get this facility? It is the legitimate right of Bangladesh to get the water but transit is an additional facility that can be given to India. There is no scope to view these two issues as one issue. During the official press conference, however, Salman Haider stated that he has not held any concrete talks on the transit issue. It is not understandable that the correspondent of a particular newspaper said that transit is their main issue of consideration. This incident is merely an external manifestation of the dual nature that is usually seen in an Indian character. It is certain that Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad is much aware of it.

The main cause behind the problems that India has with Bangladesh is the dual character of the Indian foreign policy. It has been learnt that India is willing to give water to Bangladesh unilaterally, but that it does not want to sign any agreement. Salman Haider has given a proposal to start the activities of the Joint Rivers Commission. What will be the work of the Joint Rivers Commission? How can this commission monitor the flow of water if it does not know that how much water they are getting? Bangladesh should know how much water it is getting from the Ganges River. There should be a minimum guarantee in this regard. If the experts of India or Bangladesh do not know how to make arrangements for this guarantee, they can take a decision on the matter after going and seeing how the United States and Mexico have ensured the sharing of the waters of the Colorado and the Rio Grande rivers, or how the waters of the Nile River is being shared, or how five countries are sharing the waters of the Mekong River.

In this regard, Farooq Sobhan, foreign secretary of Bangladesh, has said that Bangladesh wants its legitimate share of the water. Bangladesh has received water during the past eight years without any agreement; but, this will not resolve the problem. There should be a permanent agreement on water sharing. This statement of Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan was published in an English daily. Perhaps this stand taken by the foreign secretary reflects the wishes of the present political leadership. This stand also echoes the wishes of the people of Bangladesh.

Membership of Security Council

During his visit, Salman Haider sought Bangladesh's support for India's candidature for the post of a temporary member of the UN Security Council. Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan has said that Bangladesh will carefully consider this proposal. He said Japan has also earlier sought its support in this regard. The ambassador of Japan, (Usikajo Kaneko), again called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday and reminded her of this issue. The support of Bangladesh on this issue will be another test of its foreign policy. This issue involves making a decision — whether Bangladesh will follow the footprints of India in the international arena, or whether it will come out of the bounds of India and move independently.

The erstwhile government of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party had announced that it would extend its support to ensure Japan gets permanent membership of the UN Security Council. Now, this Indian proposal is to support it for temporary membership of the Security Council. This support will help India in the future to influence other countries for extending their support to it for becoming a permanent member of the council. Hence, this support will have an impact in the distant future.

On the one hand, India is seeking the support of Bangladesh to becoming a member of the UN Security Council, while on the other India has not resolved the issue of including Bangladesh in the Indian Oman [as published] Rim. It has always been the attitude of India to keep Bangladesh confined and extract benefits from it. It is not understandable how it is possible to change the relationship between the two countries unless India changes its attitude. The Foreign Ministry yesterday reviewed the outcome of the visit of Salman Haider to Bangladesh.

The foreign secretary of Bangladesh is preparing to pay a visit to India at the beginning of next month. After that, I.K. Gujral, the external affairs minister of India, will come to Bangladesh. This will be followed by a visit to India by Abdus Samad Azad, the foreign minister of Bangladesh. Bangladesh and India are continuing efforts to expand mutual understanding both in the technical and political front.

The government that is now in power in India is weaker than the erstwhile Congress government. At present, Bangladesh has a government of national consensus. This government is led by the Awami League, but the structure of this government is certainly much stronger than that of the Indian Government. Hence, it will be possible for the Bangladesh Government to make speedy and effective decisions. It will not be possible for the Indian Government to do so. The present Bangladesh Government should take calculated steps as it understands the pangs that the country has suffered in the past, and the disputes that the country has had with India over the Tin Bigha corridor and Berubari.

India

India: U.S. Pressures WTO To Make India 'Fall Into Line' on CTBT

BK1507120396 Delhi BUSINESS STANDARD in English 15 Jul 96 p 1

[Report by Anil Padmanabhan and Anjuli Bhargava]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States has turned the heat on India again, first by issuing a demarche on its failure to amend patent laws and then initiating dispute settlement proceedings under the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The notice on dispute settlement was served on July 2 and India has been asked to furnish its reply within a fortnight. This was preceded by a demarche on April 30 stating that the Clinton administration would take action against India for its failure to amend the Patents Act.

The Americans have invoked Article 4 of the rules governing the settlement of disputes, the first step in its proceedings. This was confirmed by commerce secretary Tejendra Khanna. "India has indicated its willingness to hold consultations to resolve the dispute. The first meeting will be held in Geneva soon between our ambassadors," said Khanna.

India will have to finalise its response this week and start consultations within 60 days to reach a mutually-acceptable solution. If the process fails, the US could demand institution of a dispute settlement panel within the WTO to adjudicate the patents issue.

The American move threatening retaliatory trade action is seen in government quarters as part of a strategy to make India fall into line in regard to the nuclear test ban negotiations.

In April, when the US first announced its intention to move dispute settlement proceedings under the WTO, citing India's failure to provide patent protection, senior government officials had said the move was only a reminder to the incoming Indian government that it must "put its act together".

Commerce minister B B Ramaiah said that the amendment to the patents bill will first be put up to the United

Front steering committee and after the Front has taken a stand on the issue, either a committee will be formed to study the modalities or a cabinet decision taken straight away.

The amended bill is likely to be tabled in the monsoon session when Parliament reconvenes after a short break. However the US move will put the new government under extreme pressure to fall in line with its multilateral obligations.

The bill moved by the Rao government had been passed by the Lok Sabha but failed to go through the Rajya Sabha. A committee had been set up under the Rajya Sabha to study the implications of the amendment, which subsequently lapsed.

India also continues to be on the US administration's Special 301 priority watchlist for inadequate intellectual property rights protection. This is the third consecutive year that India has been named in the priority watchlist. However, the US has chosen the multilateral forum instead of bilateral trade action under Special 301.

Sources said the government was planning to invite US commerce secretary Mickey Kantor to visit India, but deferred the move till it had initiated action on the patents issue.

On February 9, the United States Trade Representative (USTR) initiated WTO dispute settlement proceedings against Japan for its failure to protect the rights of US performing artistes and producers.

On March 11, the USTR announced WTO dispute settlement proceedings against Canada, citing discriminatory practices to protect its domestic magazine industry.

On May 1, action was initiated against Pakistan on the ground that the country had failed to adapt its patent laws to multilateral obligations.

India: Report Says ASEAN To Pressure Delhi To Sign CTBT

BK1507122296 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 14 Jul 96 p 9

[Report by K.P. Nayar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With Russia joining the US in making a demarche to India on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), foreign policy has been added to the crisis areas confronting the fragile Deve Gowda government.

Pressure on India over CTBT will be further stepped up next week when foreign ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) formally urge New Delhi to sign the treaty being negotiated in Geneva.

Unnerved by the pressure that is building up from across the world on the test ban, the government has suddenly summoned Arundhati Ghose, India's chief negotiator in Geneva, for consultations here during the weekend.

The consultations are designed to finalise New Delhi's stand at the Conference on Disarmament (CD), the forum for CTBT talks, which is reconvening on July 29.

If the demand from Washington and Moscow that India should fall in line on CTBT is a source of worry for New Delhi, the ASEAN's decision to lend its support for the big power chorus on this score will cause India acute embarrassment.

External Affairs Minister I K Gujral is due in Jakarta in about 10 days to attend the post-ministerial meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers, when India will be inducted both as a full dialogue partner of the ASEAN and as a member of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). This will be Gujral's first visit abroad as new External Affairs Minister.

A draft communique for the ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting, finalised on Friday [12 July], will not only urge India to support a global test ban but also demand universal implementation of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

The draft also urges China to stop further nuclear tests. However, according to diplomatic sources in Jakarta, while the proposed communique does not name China in this connection, it specifically urges India by name to support the CTBT.

In South Block, the draft communique, approved unanimously by senior ASEAN officials, is being interpreted as a snub to India and there is speculation on how Gujral will respond to it when he arrives in Jakarta.

A few days ago, when UK's chief delegate to the CD made critical references to India's stand on CTBT, Foreign Secretary Salman Haidar summoned the British High Commissioner in New Delhi and conveyed the government's strong feelings on this issue.

This reprimand, widely considered at that time as an excessive reaction to the UK remark, had its first echo in the British parliament yesterday when several members demanded that the British government should prevail upon New Delhi to allow international observers during the forthcoming Kashmir assembly elections.

Responding to this demand Britain's Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said that "permitting observers from other countries is always a valuable way of satisfying the international community of the freedom and fairness of elections".

While officials in South Block are unperturbed by stray demands in the House of Commons for international observers in Kashmir, what is worrying them is an overt attempt by the US to mediate between India and Pakistan on Kashmir.

This week's talks in Pakistan by the US Ambassador to India Frank Wisner have persuaded Benazir Bhutto's government to go in for a resumption of the stalled Indo-Pakistan bilateral dialogue. Wisner has denied that he is engaged in any mediation, but his denial is seen here as quibbling over words.

Although officials here are supportive of any US attempts to persuade Pakistan to resume talks with India, they are acutely concerned about any US role in Indo-Pakistan relations which goes beyond such an attempt.

They interpret Wisner's address on July 10 at the Command Staff College in Quetta as a new US agenda on Kashmir. It is well-known that Washington has been seeking a mediatory role on the Indo-Pakistan dispute.

During the last five years since P.V. Narasimha Rao became prime minister, New Delhi has thwarted every effort by Washington to meddle in the Indo-Pakistan dispute.

The worry in South Block, however, is that with a weak government now running India, it may no longer be in a position to stand up to aggressive US efforts to mediate between India and Pakistan.

India: Foreign Minister Interviewed on Nation's Nuclear Stand

BK1507014896 Delhi OUTLOOK in English 17 Jul 96

["Excerpts" of interview with Indian Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral by Sunil Narula; place, date not given — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Narula] India has always taken a moralistic stand on nuclear disarmament. Why are we talking national security now?

[Gujral] I don't think we've ever taken any stand which didn't have the input of national security. It so happens that our national security and our moral posture coincided. Even today every country would be safe, including us, if there were no nuclear arms around. That's our general approach, and we continue to have it.

In Geneva, we said that the treaty being drafted doesn't rid the world of Nuclear arms. So when we say we are talking security, it's not something new. Every country has to give priority to its own security interests.

[Narula] We never said it in so many words...

[Gujral] I don't think so. Till now we'd been faced with one reality, that was Cold War. Therefore, the articulation and the phraseology was different, our rhetoric was different. This conference is in a way a continuation of the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty]. Our policy regarding the NPT and this is consistent. We did not sign the NPT, we're not signing this. There is a clear linkage between our policy on the two.

[Narula] In March, Salman Haider had said nuclear arms are not essential for our security. Isn't this contradictory?

[Gujral] When he said nuclear arms are not necessary for the world, he meant for everybody. He didn't mean everybody can have nuclear arms and India can feel secure. His statement has not been correctly understood.

[Narula] What use is it to have an open nuclear option if we don't exercise it?

[Gujral] I've never said we won't exercise it. The question invariably asked is: When? Now the 'when' is correlated with our assessment of threat. Whether it's a nuclear weapon or not, the weaponry is selected on the basis of threat perception. When we say our options are open, it means we'll act as we see our threat perception.

[Narula] It's thought if India conducts tests, the West will come down hard on us.

[Gujral] I'm not saying the world will come down hard on us or not, nor am I saying we should test or not. What I'm saying is, if at any stage our security planners come to the conclusion, which they have not now, that a test is called for, then whatever the world might say, we have to do it. Security decisions are not taken on the basis of referendum or popularity.

[Narula] There's no transparency in our security policy.

[Gujral] Security policies are never transparent anywhere in the world. Do we know the security policy of all our neighbours? Do we know the weaponry they have? India won't suffer if the Indian public is aware.

I'm all for open debate, but that doesn't mean you tell everyone: "I've got a knife in my pocket to defend myself".

[Narula] Do we expect sanctions?

[Gujral] The issue is not sanctions. The point is, we've made it very clear that we're unable to sign the treaty as it is now drafted. We're meeting after a month, let's see if there's any change... if so, we'll act accordingly.

India: Interview With Disarmament Conference Envoy on CTBT, Security

BK1507024396 Delhi OUTLOOK in English 17 Jul 96

["Telephonic interview" with Anrndafl Ghose, India's permanent representative to the UN in Geneva, by Sunil Narula; date not given — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Narula] Was there any hostility against India at the CD [Conference on Disarmament]?

[Ghose] I don't know where you got the idea that there was a mood of hostility against India. There was no hostility.

[Narula] What about the UK statement?

[Ghose] They don't speak for everybody else. That statement was made during the negotiations in order to put pressure on India to sign the treaty. The language of it was such, even the UK's allies apologised to me for me statement. It is not a general feeling of hostility. That statement engendered a lot of hostility against the UK ambassador.

[Narula] Do you foresee any pressure there?

[Ghose] Once we have decided that we will not sign the treaty unless our concerns are taken on board, what can they do?

[Narula] What about international pressure?

[Ghose] That you will have to ask Delhi. They tried for 28 years to get us to sign the NPT [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty], and they weren't terribly successful. They know that India reacts badly to pressure.

[Narula] Was there any behind-the-scenes pressure on you in Geneva?

[Ghose] There was no behind-the-scenes pressure. It was just statements like "we are going to insist', 'if you don't sign you'll be a treaty breaker', 'this was Nehru's dream', that you are developing a secret nuclear weapon...arsenal," this kind of stuff.

[Narula] The western press presents India as being isolated on the Issue...

[Ghose] In the sense that India is the only country which has stood up and said no. But there is a lot of sympathy among the developing countries for our position and the fact that we had the strength to stand up and say no. A large number of these countries last year were pressurised into accepting the indefinite extension of the NPT. And a lot of them are still smarting from that pressure.

[Narula] So it gives them a kind of vicarious pride that one of their own countries is able to say no.

[Ghose] But none of them is willing to stand by India...During the negotiations, one developing country said, 'we have not spoken so far but that is not because we don't have an opinion but because our point of view has been defended by India'. This was informal. You know they are vulnerable to pressure, they are signatories of the NPT. It is incorrect to say that India is isolated. Yes, India is alone in objecting and coming out very clearly, but we have always done that.

[Narula] Any chances of India's exemption from the eight-nation clause?

[Ghose] This is up to those who want to sign the treaty. If they want to see the treaty coming into force, even after I have said that we are not going to sign....and it's not just me here, over the weekend even the foreign minister had made it very clear. This is government policy, it's not mine. If they insist that it will come into force only after India signs, that is their responsibility. So there is a lot of pressure on Russia, China, Pakistan and Britain who want this clause, to back off. Because France and the US are quite willing to allow the treaty to go through without India's signature.

[Narula] What are the objections of these four countries?

[Ghose] Pakistan has said it will not sign unless India signs. And presumably, they feel that they will be less able to withstand pressure than we are and they don't want that pressure. So they have been telling the nuclear weapon states to "take India's concerns on board... how can you expect India to sign if her concerns aren't met?" Then you have Russia and China who have difficulties on the substance of the verification regime — the core of the treaty. Russia and China on June 28 said they want negotiations to continue when the CD reconvenes. I don't know what UK's problem is. They've fallen out with the US and France, their closest allies. Maybe they don't want a treaty. I can't see why, because they have to use the US testing sites. If the US says no, they can't test.

[Narula] Were you the only woman ambassador at the CD?

[Ghose] No. The Japanese ambassador is a woman, the Kenyan ambassador is a woman, I think there are three or four of us.

[Narula] Any special reaction because you are a woman?

[Ghose] I've never been a man...so I don't know. If the Government's policy is clear, and the support from headquarters is solid, as has been the case for me, then it is up to the negotiator to present the case, and push it through. Your gender doesn't matter.

[Narula] India has for the first time mentioned national security as our reason for not signing the CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty].

[Ghose] No. Not at all. We had mentioned this (in) earlier statements which we had made in the CD. In the last statement it was clearly spelt out, because it needed to be driven home. It is real, not rhetoric, it is a real national security concern. It's nothing new. They (the nuclear weapon states)are asking us for a commitment, they also must make an equivalent commitment. That is where the balancing comes out.

[Narula] What is happening to the Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT) talks?

[Ghose] Nothing. The G-21 has adopted a decision which it placed formally before the CD, that immediately after the CTBT ends, they want the ad-hoc committee on nuclear disarmament taken up. So there's another battle before us.

[Narula] So the FMCT will come in later?

[Ghose] Let's see whether you need an FMCT. Because the four N-weapon states have already voluntarily stopped production of fissile material. They don't know what to do with it. It's the safety and security of this material which is a big issue. They had a summit in May, to deal with nuclear smuggling, a new area. FMCT is slightly out dated. Right now it's dead in the water.

[Narula] Is the FMCT also aimed at capping our fissile material production?

[Ghose] Yes, but if we are not willing to be capped, I don't see how they're going to do it. Will they make commitments which are equivalent? This is the entire issue on which the CTBT is now hung. If they're not, and at the CTBT it's clear they are not, it's pointless thinking of anything else.

India: Resolution To Extend President's Rule in Kashmir Passed

BK1207161996 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Lok Sabha today passed a statutory resolution seeking extension of president's rule in Jammu and Kashmir for another six months from the 18th of this month. The resolution approved by voice vote was moved by the prime minister.

Replying to the debate, Mr. Deve Gowda assured the house that the assembly elections in the state will be held either in September or in the first week of October. He said every effort will be made to ensure free and fair elections. The prime minister said that the large turnout in the Lok Sabha polls in the state indicates that the people want their own government. He said the center is not interested which party or groups win the elections. He said it is only proper that the issue of quantum of autonomy should be discussed with the elected representatives.

India: Curfew Paralyzes Kashmir; Leader Demands More Autonomy

BK1307164896 Hong Kong AFP in English 1629 GMT 13 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, July 13 (AFP) — A former chief minister of Kashmir on Saturday [13 July] demanded maximum autonomy for the troubled state as a curfew imposed by Indian troops paralysed the Himalayan province, witnesses said.

Farooq Abdulla, president of the National Conference, who was allowed by Indian troops to visit the revered martyr's grave here, told supporters that greater autonomy for the state was the "only" goal for the party.

"Our fight for the maximum autonomy for Kashmir will continue and the National Conference will never compromise on its principles at any cost," Abdulla said.

The Muslim politician said India would have to restore the pre-1953 status of Kashmir when it enjoyed control on all matters barring defence, foreign affairs and telecommunications.

India's new United Front government has promised greater autonomy to Kashmir but Hindu nationalists who constitute the main opposition are violently opposed to the idea.

"National Conference will not be cowed down by brute force, be it from militants or by the (Indian) state," Abdulla said in Srinagar where Indian troops were out in force to enforce an "unofficial curfew."

Paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) soldiers arrested an influential separatist leader, Sabir Shah, for violating a curfew imposed to prevent street rallies by Muslim militants and local politicians, a witness said.

Police broke up protests held by the militant Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front leader Javed Mir in downtown Srinagar, another witness said.

Kashmiris organise marches on July 13 every year in the memory of 13 Muslim leaders who were killed during a rally to protest the rule of a Hindu king in Kashmir in 1931 when it was an unpartitioned princely state.

The Himalayan territory was divided between India and Pakistan after the independence of the subcontinent in 1947.

Baton-wielding policemen and fully-armed federal troops ringed the city's main Jama Masjid mosque as part of the security operation, residents said by telephone.

State police Chief A.K. Suri said soldiers were deployed as a precaution against possible violence.

Security troops placed restrictions on the powerful All-Party Hurriyat Conference preventing its Muslim separatist and political leaders from organising street marches, the witnesses added.

"House arrest of the entire Hurriyat leadership speaks volumes of the hollowness of the Indian Government's claims that the situation in Kashmir has improved," an academic told AFP from his barricaded Srinagar home.

"To Farooq Abdulla they (Indian troops) are providing security," a spokesman for Hurriyat Conference said. "They have imposed a curfew and placed all the rest of the leaders under house arrest."

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, the only Muslim-majority state in overwhelmingly-Hindu India, since 1989 when Muslim separatist groups stepped up an anti-India campaign in the Himalayan territory, bordering Pakistan.

India accuses Pakistan of fomenting trouble in Kashmir. Islamabad denies the charge but extends moral and diplomatic support to what it calls the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for self-determination.

India: Nuclear Fuel Complex To Double Production by Dec

BK1407092696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The nuclear fuel complex near Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh is all set to more than double its turnover from the present 150 crore rupees. The chief executive of the complex, Mr. K.K. Sinha, told newsmen in Hyderabad that the production capacity would go up to 400 tonnes of nuclear fuel when three more projects are commissioned by December this year.

Iran

Iran: Majles Official on U.S. Problems in Isolating Country

LD1407055096 Tehran IRNA in English 0511 GMT 14 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 14, IRNA — The U.S. should come to realize that other nations will not bow down before its bullying and sacrifice their national interests, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Movahhedi-Savoji, a member of the presiding body of the Majlis, said.

In an interview with the English morning daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' printed Sunday [14 July], he condemned Washington's hostile policies towards Iran.

Europe's opposition to the U.S. trade embargo on Iran indicates that other countries will not follow what the U.S. would like to dictate to them, he stated.

As for the priorities of the Fifth Majlis, he said the elimination of poverty, support for the vulnerable strata and social justice are among the main objectives of the current legislative assembly.

Iran: Europe Said Ignoring U.S. Embargo

96LH0199A Tehran IRAN NEWS in Persian 9 Apr 96 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Faridun Fesharaki [Iranian "expert" in England] said: The low price of oil products and the unrealistically high domestic demand are among the great problems in Iran's oil industry.

French and Italian oil companies continue their talks with Iranian officials without regard for the U.S. embargo.

IRNA reports that the BBC, in discussing this and citing an Iranian expert, said: The U.S. embargo against Iran has had no immediate effect on Iran's oil industry.

At the 14th annual meeting at the Center for Iranian Studies in England, Faridun Fesharaki said: The low price of oil products in Iran and the consequent unrealistically high demand for these products domestically are among the main problems in Iran's oil industry.

This Iranian expert residing in England said: Iran needs domestic and foreign investment to increase or keep stable its production and also to develop its oil industry. To attract foreign companies, it must offer adequate economic incentives to the oil companies. Otherwise, it will face serious problems.

Continuing his remarks at this meeting, held in Coventry, England, this expert said: To improve the situation in its oil industry and prevent a drop in oil revenues, which will have economic repercussions, the Government of Iran must sharply increase the price of oil products. This will not only bring about growth in the oil industry, but it will also reduce domestic demand for oil products.

In the view of this expert, Iran must sell the largest possible amount of its oil production on international markets.

Iran: Arabs Urged To Fund 'Freedom Fighters' Against U.S., Israel

LD1307082696 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 13 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 13, IRNA — The Arab nations should unite themselves and channel funds to the freedom fighters who know how to bring the U.S. Administration and Zionist lobby in America to their knees, the English daily IRAN NEWS wrote Thursday [11 July].

As to the Zionist Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's address at the U.S. Congress, the editorial stated that it showed that neither the U.S. nor the illegitimate entity, Israel is sincere in their claim that they want peace in the Middle East.

"It is really a shame that the U.S. lawmakers should pay glowing tribute to a person who ridiculed the international commitments his country made during the course of the 1993 peace initiative sponsored first by Washington itself."

None but the inexperienced President Bill Clinton, who agreed to close the Palestinian offices in Jerusalem, will be responsible if the incidents of 1980s are repeated in Lebanon and elsewhere.

The editorial concluded by urging the Arab nations to unite since that is the only way for the Arab world to regain its past glory.

Iran: Tehran TV on U.S. Military Presence in Gulf

LD1107205096 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1701 GMT 11 Jul 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of the explosion at the U.S. military base in Saudi Arabia, the Americans have been in total chaos. Between the Dhahran explosion and the forthcoming presidential election, by reconsidering security in its bases in the region and also by staging exercises, the U.S. Democratic administration, which has a tough election campaign ahead, is now trying to coordinate its forces and make out that they are prepared to confront any possible violent reactions. The U.S. forces' wargames in the Persian Gulf, which started yesterday with the participation of 15,000 American servicemen, is in fact a sign of such preparedness.

The American forces, who are stationed in the region to guarantee their country's supremacy in the Middle East and to implement the American-style method of controlling sensitive regions, have themselves been turned into the cause of instability now, so that even Jacques Chirac, the French president, has admitted that fact.

As in the last century and in the first half of this century, when Britain's presence prevented a gradual convergence in the region, today it seems that as long as the Americans have turned the region into a stamping ground for their servicemen and a place to sell and test their arms and fan the fire of regional disputes, the possibility of peace and development in the Middle East is nothing but a dream.

Iran: Commentary on Russian Delegation in India for Nuclear Talks

LD1307190296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 13 Jul 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On Friday 12 July, a delegation from the Russian Foreign Ministry has met with the Indian Foreign Ministry officials in New Delhi and proposed to the Indian officials a plan which encourages India to join the treaty banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Based on the plan, the five main nuclear powers of the world will sign the treaty in its present form and India, Pakistan, and the Zionist regime will join the treaty anytime they think the condition is right for them to do so. In addition, Russia and India will jointly propose to the five big nuclear powers to set a definite time-table to destroy their nuclear weapon stockpile.

In the Russian proposed plan it has been called for that India can precondition the signing of the treaty on the five big powers issuing a communique and outlining their intention of destroying their inventories of nuclear arms. The Russian efforts to convince India to moderate its previously declared position on this issue and join the signatories of nuclear arms ban treaty are thought to be in connection with agreements between Russia and the United States to encourage India and Pakistan to join the treaty. In line with this, the Americans have managed to pressure Pakistan into softening its position on the issue. This is believed so because some Pakistani Government officials have stated that Pakistan would not create any obstacles in the way of signing by all of the nuclear weapons proliferation ban treaty in the upcoming Geneva negotiations.

However, it is doubtful that Russia would be able to drag India into a similar moderate position, because India has focused its strategy on the general nuclear disarmament and the destruction of the existing inventories of nuclear weapons possessed by the big-five, and hence it cannot easily back up on its declared position on such an important issue.

Meanwhile, it should be considered that putting the Zionist regime next to India and Pakistan in the Russian plan will not be accepted by the United States and this will certainly reduce the chances of the Russian plan to be taken seriously in New Delhi. Despite this, however, it seems that to break the deadlock in the Geneva talks, that part of the Russian plan which gives India, Pakistan, and the Zionist regime permission to join the treaty at another opportunity while the five main nuclear powers sign it at the moment, is likely to be more welcome in New Delhi under current circumstances. Right now the optimism exists that if India accepts to sign the treaty, the big nuclear powers are willing to produce a joint communique, announcing their intention to destroy their nuclear armaments without setting any kind of a timetable or deadline. But it is obvious that India would not change its position without squeezing an advantage out of those powers.

Iran: Daily on Iran-Arab Ties; 'No Foreign Hands' on Saudi Bomb

LD1207151096 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 9 Jul 96 p 2

[Editorial: "Iran-Arab Relations"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "We are for good neighborly relations with all of our neighbors, including Bahrain".

The above statement by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati during a television program Thursday [4 July] reflects Islamic Iran's thinking on the subject of Iran-Arab relations.

This established policy of Tehran after the 1979 Islamic Revolution has been ever since implemented despite eight years of Iraqi-imposed war which was systematically backed by most Persian Gulf Arab states.

Nevertheless Iran's good will was hardly reciprocated by our Arab neighbours. They have never missed an opportunity to blame Iran for any type of unrest in their countries. Egypt, Algeria, and recently Bahrain openly blame the Islamic Republic for their domestic and largely self-inflicted troubles.

President Husni Mubarak has almost always repeated like a parrot allegations made in Washington on Iran's involvement in "acts of terrorism" carried on in any part of the world.

Now another Arab official is uttering similar accusations. On Sunday [7 July] appearing on the ABC news program in Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the Saudi Ambassador to the U.S. said he could not rule out Iran as a possible culprit in the two bomb attacks in Saudi Arabia that killed 24 Americans.

The Saudi diplomat may have said this to appease American politicians. However, he should know better that Washington officially made it clear after the June 25 attack that no evidence whatsoever was found to prove Iran's link to the huge bomb blast.

After giving due consideration to what has been said on the subject in the western media one comes to the conclusion that Bandar is not telling the truth. The truth is that the people of Saudi Arabia are strongly opposed to America's military presence in their country. Bandar, in his capacity as a Saudi official and being close to King Fahd, who is his uncle, is well aware that no foreign hands are involved in the bombings. The two blasts that left 24 Americans dead and hundreds wounded are looked upon by U.S. officials as a clear demonstration of hatred of the Americans by the Saudis.

Arab leaders would gain by paying more attention to the prevailing situation in their countries. First of all they should learn to respect the sentiments of their people. Be it Bahrain, Egypt, or Saudi Arabia, the problems will not disappear by pointing fingers at Iran. To the contrary, it would be to the advantage of the Arab nations to respond positively to Tehran's good will gestures and its calls to maintain and promote good neighbourly relations.

Iran: Victims' Relatives Urge Action To Bring Turkey to Justice

LD1407142696 Tehran IRNA in English 1411 GMT 14 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbaijan Prov., July 14, IRNA — The bereaved families of the victims of a Turkish helicopter attack on an Iranian border area on June 26 requested international organization to bring Turkey to justice and force it to compensate for the losses incurred by local people. Turkish helicopter gunships violated Iranian airspace over Silvana district in northwestern province of West Azarbaijan on June 26 and fired rockets, leaving six women and children dead and 16 others wounded.

Suleyman Geytarani, 70, father of a family whose eight members were martyred or wounded in the attack said the respective international forums and human rights organizations are required to condemn Turkey for committing the crime. He said if the same crime was committed against a pro-western country, the media gave a wide coverage to the deadly incident, but, they have turned a blind eye to the Turkish air raid which was similar to terrorist act or assassination attempt.

Ahmad Majidi-Far whose wife has been seriously wounded in the leg said that what Turkey did was an unmanly terrorist act, a very rare case that a country does against its neighbouring defenceless civilians. His wife, Maryam Iran-Khah said, "I was busy milking cow when the helicopters appeared in the sky. I did not take notice of them at first, but, all of a sudden I heard the boom of a bomb blast and saw fire engulfing the area." Osman Taheri, father of two children who died in the air raid said Turkish army backed by the U.S. and Israel has embarked on such an adventurism.

Iran: Editorial—'Decisive' Stand Needed Against Turkish Raids

NC1507103896 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Jun 96 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "Turkey's Border Aggressions Cannot Be Tolerated"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The raid by two Turkish helicopters on a border village in Western Azerbaijan in our country, and the killing and wounding of several of our compatriots, once again revealed the sensitivity in relations between the two countries. The repetition of such bitter incidents shows that there are hands within the Turkish ruling structure that are working to harm Tehran-Ankara relations. This becomes especially obvious when we see that the statesmen in Ankara do not show any interest in following up these incidents and do not even carry out their commitments in preventing the repetition of similar assaults or in paying compensation.

At a time when Turkey is facing political instability due to the absence of a stable government during the past few months, it is not unexpected to see pressure groups within the Turkish power structure trying to impose their views, especially when we take into consideration that the Turkish Army always played its own tune. This situation becomes more obvious when we see the existence of elements that resist Turkish public opinion and refuse to give in to the Turkish people's calls for ending cooperation with Zionism. Moreover, domestic developments in Turkey during the past years and months have clearly shown that the people want to have sincere relations with neighboring Muslim countries and that they wish to revive their Islamic identity. Naturally, such developments do not please those elements that are trying to find ways to create a crisis in Turkey's relations with Muslim nations. The recent border incidents between Turkey and Syria, and the raid by Turkish forces on a border village in the Islamic Republic of Iran three days ago are proofs of this.

The active presence of Turkey's Welfare Party on the political scene and their coming to power may have been an important factor that encouraged the secularist elements in the Turkish Army to try to mar Tehran-Ankara relations. On this basis, one can say that the recent air raids by the Turkish forces on a border village in our country pursued specific political objectives that are related to future relations between the Erbakan government and the Islamic Republic of Iran, although the Erbakan government has not yet assumed any responsibility in relation to this.

At any rate, the heavy responsibility of the Turkish Government in the recent bitter aggression cannot be tolerated, and our foreign ministry should adopt a decisive stand until a favorable outcome, which will ensure Ankara's official commitment to prevent the repetition of similar incidents and to compensate for the damages incurred by this aggression and by similar incidents in the past, is achieved.

Iran: Turkish Official Questioned on Relations With Israel

96LH0201A Tehran IRAN NEWS in Persian 10 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Political Group—Dr. Hasan Habibi, first vice president of the republic, met with Mr 'Ali Tuygan, the Turkish deputy foreign minister. He emphasized the need for all the countries in the region to cooperate to maintain and reinforce stability and peace in the Middle East. He said: The presence in the region of foreigners, especially the enemies of the Muslim world, is absolutely unacceptable from the point of view of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Dr. Habibi described relations through history between the two neighbor countries, Turkey and Iran, as stable and based on the principles of good-neighborly and brotherly behavior. He said: The borders between the two neighboring Muslim countries have always been peaceful and friendly. The existing political will in both countries to increase political, cultural, and commercial cooperation requires that better use be made of their very high mutual capacities in the interest of the two nations, the region, and the world.

The president of the republic's General Office of Intelligence and News reported that at this meeting, the Turkish deputy foreign minister conveyed the warm greetings of Turkish Prime Minister Mas'ud Ilamaz to our country's first vice president of the republic. He said: Iran is a very important nation in the region, and Turkey places great importance on developing its cooperation with Iran more and more every day.

He added: Turkey will not permit any third nation to undermine its friendly and brotherly relations with Iran.

Mr Tuygan praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's concern for economic prosperity in the region. He said: Turkey is happy about the connection of Iran's railroad to the Central Asian nations; this will play an important role in increasing the volume of commercial and economic exchanges between these nations and the outside world.

Meeting With Dr. Velayati

Political Group — Dr. Velayati, the foreign minister, met yesterday with the Turkish foreign minister. At that meeting he called the Zionist regime the worst enemy of the Muslim world and asked for an explanation about the military cooperation between Turkey and the Zionist regime.

Dr. Velayati discussed the reports published by the world media about the signing of a military treaty between the regime occupying Jerusalem and Turkey. He said: The regime occupying Jerusalem has waged many wars against the Muslim world. In view of the fact that Turkey is a large member of the Muslim world, the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its deep anxiety about the granting of any kind of means to the Zionist regime, and considers this to be against the vital interest of the Muslim world and the region.

At this meeting, 'Ali Tuygan, the deputy Turkish foreign minister, discussed the importance of the relations between the two nations. He vigorously denied the report about the assignment of a base and space by Turkey to Israel, calling it an exaggeration by the world media.

He mentioned the many political, economic, and cultural points of commonality between the two nations. He said: Turkey never wants to create disruption or unrest in connection with any country in the region, especially not with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iran: Niyazov, Rafsanjani Discuss Political, Economic Issues

LD1507132996 Tehran IRNA in English
1255 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — The presidents of Iran and Turkmenistan during their talks here today reviewed important political, economic and cultural issues, as well as regional and international problems. Saparmurad Niyazov, who arrived here today at the head of a top-ranking delegation, said that Tehran-Ashgabat relations are based on mutual respect and non-interference in each other's affairs. He said that bilateral trade and economic relations have been inspired by the two countries' common culture, religion and political will.

In the talks which were attended by senior political and ecnomic officials of the two countries, the Turkmen president voicing support for Iran's wise and active policy for restoration of peace and stability in the region especially in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, said "the principled policy and good-neighbourly ties between Iran and Turkmenistan, have resulted in strengthening regional cooperation and expansion of multilateral relations."

Referring to the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railway project, he said that this important railway track which is of both regional and international importance, has paved the ground for development of cooperation between Europe and Asia as well as the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). "We should take advantage of this excellent situation," he added.

The 297-km track inaugurated last may, connects the landlocked Central Asian countries to the outside world via Iranian soil. The ancient city of Sarakhs in Khorasan straddles the Iran-Turkmenistan frontier.

Iran and Turkmenistan are members of the 10-nation ECO, whose other members include Turkey, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzistan and Kazakhstan.

Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in reply referred to the cultural and religious ties shared by the people of Iran and Turkmenistan, and said that the important goals of expansion and cooperation between the regional countries would further contribute to friendship and affinity among the regional people.

He expressed pleasure over the growing of political, cultural and economic relations between Iran and Turkmenistan, and said that in view of the inauguration of the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen track, a joint commission of the two countries should be set up for coordinating ways of better utilisation of the railway and to solve problems that are likely to crop up regarding the transit of goods.

Rafsanjani also stressed on further exchange of views between the two countries within the framework of a political commission for studying ways to exploit the Caspian Sea resources, to solve the Tajik crisis, and to study the Chechen and Caucasus issues.

He also said that Iran and Turkmenistan should also enter into trilateral cooperations involving a third country.

At the end of the talks it was decided that Iranian and Turkmen officials will pursue bilateral issues through separate political and economic committees. Niyazov who arrived here today on a 3-day visit is being accompanied by his deputy and foreign minister Boris Shikhmuradov and other senior officials.

Iran: Further on Niyazov's Talks With Rafsanjani

LD1507125996 Tehran IRNA in English 1216 GMT 15 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — President Saparmurad Niyazov of Turkmenistan, who arrived here today on a three-day visit termed Tehran-Ashgabat relations as "fraternal and friendly".

Niyazov and his delegation who were received at Mehrabad Airport by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, were driven straight to the presidential building at the Sa'dabad Palace complex in northern Tehran where President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani greeted them.

"The good-neighbourly ties" between the two countries are growing by the day, said the Turkmen president, adding that during his visit to Iran "at the invitation of my dear brother Rafsanjani I would become familiarized with the Iran and its heroic people."

He noted that he and Rafsanjani have met 14 times over the past four-and-a-half-years following the emergence of Turkmenistan as an independent state, and that of the 105 protocols of bilateral cooperation concluded between Tehran and Ashgabat, the two heads of state have personally signed 16 such agreements.

"The relations which have developed between the two countries are unprecedented in the past 70 years," he said. "We are always on the side of the Islamic Republic of Iran," said Niyazov, adding that Turkmenistan endeavours to strengthen its relations with the Islamic Iran. He put the volume of trade exchanges between the two countries at dlrs. 50 million annually, and said that at present Iran is engaged in major building projects in Turkmenistan totaling dlrs. 250 million.

"The two countries have drawn up joint plans in agriculture, oil, gas and other important fields, which from the economic point of view are beneficial for the two neighbourly peoples," he said.

Niyazov hailed the Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railway project inaugurated last May, as the "greatest project of the 20th century and memorial for coming generations."

The 297-km railway track connects the landlocked Central Asian to the outside world through Iranian ports on the Persian Gulf.

Niyazov said that Iran and Turkmenistan also share their views on the Caspian Sea and are trying to make the world's largest inland sea of equal benefit for all littoral states.

"Mr. Boris Yeltsin stressed during talks that Russia also shares a common stand with the Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard," he said referring to his recent talks with Russian president on the Caspian Sea. Rafsanjani said in reply that the two countries normally consult each other on every new development in the region in order to coordinate their policies.

Referring to the railway project and the recent presidential elections in Russia, he said "in view of the new developments in the region we have important political discussions to hold which would be analysed during the (Turkmen president's) visit."

On the current talks in the Turkmen capital between the Tajikistan government and opposition groups, Rafsanjani said "Iran and Turkmenistan are desirous to see an early solution to the Tajik issue."

Niyazov is being accompanied by Deputy President and Foreign Minister Boris Shikhmuradov, deputy president for military and security affairs, Sarajaev, and deputy president for trade affairs, Safarov.

Iran: Reasons for Internal Problems in Bahrain Discussed

NC1207210796 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 4 Jul 96 p 16

[Political commentary: "Bahrain Should First Solve its Domestic Problems"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Bahraini foreign minister expressed his appreciation of Syria's efforts to improve relations between Manama and Tehran as well as to safeguard security, independence, and peace in the region.

The AL KHALIJ news agency cited Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Mubarak al-Khalifah on the visit by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Bahrain, saying: Bahrain appreciates Syria's peaceful and sincere efforts, made on the noble recommendations of Hafiz al-Asad and his national adherence to the concept of security and stability in Bahrain.

Shaykh Mubarak expressed his gratitude to Syria for its efforts, which culminated in an agreement to end the propagandist attacks between Bahrain and Iran as the first step toward improving bilateral relations.

Syria's mediation to resolve the crisis between Bahrain and Iran merits appreciation, which is what was expected from the sole government among the Arab countries of the Middle East to adopt a poised and logical stance on events and crises in the region.

But it would be worthwhile if Syrian and Bahraini echelons recalled that the current crisis in Tehran-Manama relations has been wholly and solely fabricated by officials in Manama. They accused Iran of interference in their internal affairs and even audaciously propounded the notion that Iran had a role in a nebulous coup d'etat in Bahrain.

The discontent of the Bahraini people, resulting in a crisis in the shaykhdom, will not be eliminated by improving Manama's relations with Iran. This is because a crisis in Tehran-Manama relations and in relations between the Bahraini Government and people are two entirely different phenomena. Any attempt to intertwine the two is a diabolical Zionist ploy to which the United States and Israel have resorted with the help of their media loudspeakers.

Iran welcomes broader relations with all the shaykhdoms of the Persian Gulf and has repeatedly expressed its satisfaction with this trend in regional relations in diplomatic statements as well as in practice. But the internal problems of the Arab littoral countries of the Persian Gulf are a separate issue. The regional governments pin the blame for all kinds of internal tension on others and seek to deflect the center of the crisis to beyond their borders. In this manner they try to downplay their own ineptitude and erroneous behavior—the main causes of internal tension.

They should rest assured that even if they succeed in compensating for their unwarranted behavior of the past with the help of others, the source of the unrest that has roots in the core of their own society will continue to remain ensconced in it. They should seriously ponder a solution to their domestic problems.

Iran: Paper Says Bahraini Government Imprisons More

NC1307131296 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Jul 96 p 16

[IRNA Report]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report received yesterday from an official source in Manama, a special court in Bahrain has sentenced three combatant Bahraini Muslims to imprisonment and payment of fines on charges of "arson and disseminating rumors."

According to an AFP report from Manama, Mahmud 'Abbas Habib, Muhammad 'Ali Matuk were charged with setting an automobile workshop and two private vehicles ablaze, and were sentenced to three and five years imprisonment respectively. 'Ali Sultan 'Ali was given a six-month prison term for "disseminating rumors abroad to endanger the country's security."

With the indictment of these three persons, the number of Bahrainis sentenced by the country's security tribunals has reached 64 since the month of Khordad [22 May-21 June].

Since November 1994, Bahrain has been in the grip of a wave of demonstrations and assassinations due to which 22 persons have been killed so far.

The dissident leaders of groups opposed to the Bahraini regime who are living in a state of exile abroad demand the reinstatement of the parliament that had been dissolved in 1975.

AFP adds: Last month, the Bahraini government had accused Iran of providing financial assistance to a "terrorist organization" calling itself the Bahrain Hizballah, which aims to topple the regime. However Iran has vehemently denied all such rumors.

Iran: Commentary Marks Anniversary of Srebrenica Massacre

LD1207154196 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 12 Jul 96

[Unattributed commentary: "Anniversary of Srebrenica's Massacre"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thousands of Muslim women, in the presence of the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic, commemorated the shameful actions in Srebrenica, which is a reminder of violent scenes, on Thursday 11th July. The criminal Serbs, after the occupation of Srebrenica, exiled some of the women, men, and children and massacred the rest. The crimes took place while Srebrenica was announced a safe haven by the UN and Dutch forces were present in the city. Meanwhile the West took no action to prevent such atrocities and the UN didn't provide the necessary support to prevent the recurrence of such shameful actions.

Actually, the peak of Srebrenica's tragedy was when the UN did not manage to act its duties, preventing the massacre. Condemning the West for watching the Serb atrocities in the massacre of Srebrenica, political experts consider the horrifying incident due to the negligence of the Western governments from implementing their responsibilities in the Balkan crisis. According to these experts, Europe' silence, not only from the moral aspect but also from the political aspect, has been a big mistake.

Meanwhile, one year after Srebrenica's incident, new evidences are found from the Serbs' atrocities and massacre of the Muslims. The clearance of the atrocities and rendering documents in The Hague Court has made the court determined to probe the document of atrocities of the military commander of the Bosnian Serbs, Ratko Mladic, and the political leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadzic.

Finally, under enormous pressure, The Hague issued the arrest warrant of the two Bosnian Serb leaders. However, it seems that such a verdict by The Hague Court will not bring them to court but it will possibly escalate the pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to hand over the leaders to The Hague Court.

Elsewhere, the country members of the Western contact group, such as the US, trying not to harm their long-term interests in the Balkan, announced that although Mladic and Karadzic are pursued, however, the detention of the two is not their responsibility and the multinational forces in Bosnia. Now the status of the Western countries toward the detention of the war criminals has made the public opinion hesitant. This reaction increases the lack of confidence of the public opinion toward the Westerners more than ever.

Iran: Majles Deputy Cited on Names of Hezbollah Groups

LD1207132996 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 9 Jul 96 p 1

[Unattributed article: "Islamic Values Key to Nation's Success"]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Majles deputy Dr Mohammad Reza Bahonar in an interview here with KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL on Saturday [6 July] said that all achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran are because of emphasis laid on Islamic values. [passage omitted]

In his concluding statement referring to the 'Hezbollah Group' and "Assembly of Hezbollah" he made clarifications saying the Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez had always been issuing statements in the name of "Hezbollah Group", but this should not be mistaken for the 'Assembly of Hezbollah'. And added, "We are trying to settle the issue and to select a name which will not mislead the people".

Iran: Hezbollah Blocs Formed in Majles

LD1207170396 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 10 Jul 96 p 2

[Unattributed article: "Tribune—Moderates and the Left Form Hezbollah Bloc in Majles"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Two Hezbollah groups have been formed in the Majles. The first group is called the Hezbollah Assembly [majma'-e hezbollah] which comprises representatives from the Servants of Construction and the leftist faction. 'Abdollah Nuri was elected as the head of the group during elections for the group's presidium. Seyyed Hoseyn Mar'ashi, Majid Ansari, and Soheila Jelodarzadeh were elected as other members of the presidium.

Another group is called the Hezbollah Faction [fraksion-e hezbollah]. It comprises representatives from the [Jame'e-ye] Ruhaniyyat-e Mobarez. 'Ali Akbar Hoseyni is the head of the group and other members of its presidium are: Morteza Nabavi, Ahmad Nateq-Nuri, and Mahdavi-Abhari who is the deputy head of Nateq-Nuri's office and a Majles deputy from Abhar. Some of the representatives attend both groups' meetings.

Iran: Army Efforts, Sacrifices Praised

96LH0206A Tehran KAR VA KARGAR in Persian 18 Apr 96 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday, in recognition of the bravery of the armed forces in the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran during the revolution and the war, the people of Iran praised these efforts and sacrifices, and the Army also showed its military capabilities by parading.

In this regard we note the following:

1. Iran is in an important and strategic part of the Middle East, a region which because of its background of imperialist presence and the existence of oil (as a strategic product) and also as a connective bridge between the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe, has been viewed in a special way from the four corners of the world for many years. After the Islamic revolution, the importance of this region increased because of the ideological implications of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the struggles between the Arabs and the Israelis from the 1970's AD onward. The imperialist powers, including the United States, tried maintaining a prolonged and more effective presence.

Therefore one of the primary concerns of Iran's government leaders has been to build a structure of security and "power" in this region. A look at the history of Iran's confrontations with other nations in the region and with powers with some kind of presence in the Middle East shows that Iran has mostly been frustrated. According to one expert on Iranian affairs, "the victory in Khorramshahr was Iran's first great victory in about a century."

The victory in the war with Iraq also served to emphasize the point that a country with the backing of defense and combat capability can play a more effective role in the regional equations.

2. A look at the relations between the governments in today's world confirms that all nations place special importance on "defense" and raising their combat capability. This is just as true even in other regions of the world that do not have the strategic importance of the Middle East. The attention given by other countries such as Japan, France, and Germany to strong combat capability and to allocating an appropriate budget for it is testimony to what we are saying.

In view of this, Iran also must pay special attention in its planning to the matter of having a "strong army" and a firm defense foundation, and in this respect the Army of the Islamic Republic must play an important role.

4. The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with its experiences in the eight years of desperate defense against the aggressor and presenting exalted martyrs to the nation, today with its praiseworthy organization and high combat capability and its defense of all of Iran, has, to a great extent, made a reality of the hopes of the people.

The people therefore expect of the three forces of the Army that they defend the country's reputation and Islam with greatness and greater capability and preparedness.

The people love the Army, and it is therefore incumbent upon the officials of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to give importance to the Army, to protect the authority of these soldiers of Islam, and in so doing to support them with appropriate planning.

We believe that the forces of the Army are very skilled within their system (look at the Army retirees, who have shown themselves to be very capable in other institutions). Therefore protecting these forces and attending to their needs is the greatest service to our great nation.

Apart from its primary responsibility, which is defense and combat, the Army can be a good place for development and construction. It is therefore appropriate to make the best use of this potential.

Iran: Article Views Gas Prices, Urban Transportation

96LH0189A Tehran IRAN NEWS in Persian 3 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Passenger: If the price of gasoline increases 30 rials [R], is it fair for drivers to set fares at any level they want?

Citizen: We are not opposed to increases in the prices of gasoline or other oil products, but merely increasing prices without oversight as to how the prices are set along the routes within the city will inflict the greatest blow on society's deprived and wage-earning classes.

Following the announcement of the new prices for oil products, especially gasoline, the reporters from the AYINEH group went to the citizens and solicited their views on the increased price of gasoline and the effects of that on increased rates for passenger-bearing vehicles.

At Revolution Square a woman who was speaking with the driver of a Peykan vehicle told our correspondent: Every day I used to travel the route from Freedom Square to Revolution Square for R300, and today the driver is demanding R400.

When I protested this, he said: The price of gasoline has gone up 30 rials, and I also have no choice but to increase the fare. If the price of gasoline increased R30, is it fair for the driver to set the passenger fare at any level he wants?

This woman, who introduced herself as Rezvani, a staff worker at a government organization, added: Drivers have gotten used to raising their rates on various pretexts, and this time they have made it the increase in the price of gasoline. The people, especially society's wage-earning classes, expect the relevant organizations to apply their oversight mechanisms to prevent abuses like this.

Mohammadi-Tabar, a retiree from one of the armed forces organizations waiting for a taxi at the Revolution and Vali'asr (may God hasten his joyful advent) streets intersection, said to our correspondent: The drivers are truly unfair. To go from Vali'asr intersection to Vali'asr Square, which is only two intersections, they suddenly increased their rates by R100. The taxi drivers even preferred single passengers per ride to carrying additional passengers, to avoid getting into conflicts with the people.

This citizen added: We are not opposed to price increases for gasoline and other oil products. In any case, this is a decision the government and the officials have made based on the existing conditions and naturally we will follow it, but merely increasing prices without oversight as to how the prices are set along the routes within the city will inflict the greatest blow on society's deprived and wage-earning classes.

Mula'i, a student at Science and Industry University who plans to go from Revolution Square to Imam Khomeyni (peace be upon him) Square by taxi, says: Because of the crowding of the passengers at the large vehicles (bus) stop, I must get myself to the university by any means, but the drivers have used the R30 increase in the price of gasoline as a pretext and are demanding R700 for this trip, yet just yesterday (Tuesday) the rate for taxis and miscellaneous vehicles was no more than R500. If the government is not able to oversee the setting of rates along the routes inside the city, it should at least bolster the bus fleet so low-income people will not be left standing in the streets.

Ms. Tavakoli, a homemaker traveling in a taxi from Vali'asi (peace be upon him) Square to Seyyed Khandan, also said to our correspondent: The drivers on this line have increased their fare R100, and their reason is that the increase in the rate on this line goes back to before the New Year's holiday.

Vahid Zarif, a student and a taxi passenger at Argentine Square, discussed the R200 increase in the fare for taxis on the Ferdowsi Square to Argentine Square route. He said: When I protested this, the driver suddenly stopped the taxi and said "if you are unhappy, then get out."

The increased fares are not only because of gasoline. Let them provide the drivers with parts and tires at appropriate prices, and we will not trample fairness underfoot either.

Hushang Sadeqi, a driver who has been taking passengers along various routes for two years, says: The increase in the price of gasoline was not such that it made rates go up suddenly. In reality, this increase was caused by increased prices for parts and vehicle services, and fares finally increased.

A taxi driver waiting at a gasoline pump at Kalej intersection said to our correspondent: Although no letter of procedures has been issued to taxi drivers, clearly drivers will increase their rates.

This taxi driver explained: The increase in the price of gasoline is trivial compared to the increases in the prices for various vehicle parts. If we increase our fares it is because of other vehicle expenses, but what are we to do if the increased gasoline price contributes to this?

Correspondents from the AYINEH group report that the majority of the drivers on special lines claim that they have kept their fares stable and that they will increase them in the next two or three days. However the people say that drivers, whether they be taxi drivers or drivers of miscellaneous vehicles, have raised their prices on their own initiative and that the competent authorities must think of appropriate measures to support the vulnerable classes.

Iran: Oil Minister on Revenues, Consumption, Conservation

96LH0198A Tehran IRAN NEWS in Persian 7 Apr 96 p 13

[FBIS Translated Text] Economics Group—Daily consumption of gasoline in 1374 [21 March 1995 - 20 March 1996] compared to 1373 [21 March 1994 - 20 March 1995] decreased about 300,000 liters; kerosene decreased 400,000 liters; and gas oil decreased 20,500,000 meters.

Oil Minister Engineer Gholamreza Aqazadeh discussed this yesterday with reporters at a press conference. Last year the average daily consumption of gasoline was 31 million liters, kerosene was 28.5 million liters, and gas oil was 59.2 million liters.

He said: Last year 100,000 barrels of oil per day was saved in the consumption of the nation's oil products, while in this year's budget this figure was to have been 70,000 barrels.

Aqazadeh noted that the reduced consumption of oil products caused the nation's exports to increase. He said: Last year the total revenues for the export of oil were $1.6 billion more than expected.

The minister of oil then emphasized that the increased prices of the four oil byproducts (gasoline, kerosene, furnace oil, and gas oil) were applied based on the Second Five-Year Plan Law. He said: The government sets the prices of oil byproducts each year based on this law.

Aqazadeh said: According to the Second Five-Year Plan Law, all revenues resulting from reductions in subsidies on oil products during the Five-Year Plan must reach about R11 trillion; this figure based on the law for this year should be R1.5 trillion, and for next year it should be R2.200 trillion.

He emphasized that the increase in the price of gasoline could have a psychological effect on the economy. He said: Measures have been taken to thwart the price increases in urban transportation and shipping due to the increased prices of gasoline and gas oil, and these include R20 billion in aid to the nation's municipalities.

The minister of oil added: Of this amount, R8 billion was given to the municipality of Tehran to be used to improve Tehran's urban transportation and shipping and its bus system. Another Oil Ministry measure to reduce environmental pollution and to prevent increases in urban transportation fares is the provision of aid to modify taxis for propane fuel use.

As another Ministry of Oil measure to convert taxis and vehicles for propane fuel use, Aqazadeh mentioned the construction this year of 20 liquid gas distribution points for vehicles in the city of Tehran. He said: By the end of the current year, the number of liquid gas distribution points for vehicles in the city of Tehran will reach 31.

The minister of oil also said: To improve fuel consumption in the country, guidelines have been provided with the help of the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Industries and submitted to the government.

He also discussed the price of motor oil. He said: The current price of motor oil has been set by the Consumer and Producer Protection Organization based on a measure enacted by the Economic Council, and the task of distributing these products is the responsibility of the Ministry of Industries.

In conclusion, Aqazadeh discussed the increase in the price of crude oil on the world's markets. He said: The increase in the price of crude oil is due to reduced oil reserves in America, continued cold weather, and Iraq's failure to come into the oil market.

Iran: Cabinet Begins Planning 'Economy Without Oil'

*96LH0203A Tehran IRAN NEWS in Persian
13 Apr 96 p 13*

[FBIS Translated Text] Economics Group—The minister of commerce announced that by order of the exalted leader, the Council of Ministers has begun compiling the "Economy Without Oil Program, and Timetable for Its Implementation," to be submitted for his approval after completion.

On 4 Farvardin this year [24 March 1996] in sacred Mashhad, the exalted leader emphasized in an important speech the necessity for comprehensive planning to free the government of the need to rely on revenues from oil exports.

Yahya Al-e Eshaq, speaking on Thursday [11 July] in Bandar-e 'Abbas, noted our nation's abilities in production and trade and its various resources. He observed that carrying out the Economy Without Oil Program is practical and said: The development of non-oil exports through national mobilization is one of the ways to guarantee and make practical the liberation of Iran's economy from oil revenues.

He said that the First and Second Five Year Plans laid the groundwork for reinforcing the foundations of Iran's economy. He added: Through the grace of God, the period of difficulties is behind us, and it is now time to make a "visible plan." Using the theory of increasing exports and an outward-looking economy, we must accelerate the growth of the economy.

In this regard, the minister of commerce said: In implementing the plan to increase exports, special attention will be given to domestic needs and balancing those.

Al-e Eshaq also said that economic growth in nations depends on goal-oriented effort. Noting that trade is one of the pillars of the growth of the nation's economy, he added: We view trade in a framework of production for exports with the goal of economic prosperity, using imports to facilitate production and exports.

He noted our nation's vital position in the world's trade and economic relations, especially in Central Asia and after the completion of the Sarakhs-Mashhad-Tajen Railroad. He said: In its latest report, the official international body ESCAP (UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) called Iran "the bridge of the world's economy." They acknowledged that the Islamic Republic of Iran is the doorway to a new era of world development. Likewise the representatives of the European Union and other regional economic alliances have confirmed in their interviews Iran's special role in connecting the Central Asian nations to the world's economy and in creating relationships.

He called for the utilization of this pan-national position to help the nation's economy, especially in the regions that can benefit directly from this possibility. He emphasized to the officials in the province of Hormozegan that with concurrent planning and by laying the groundwork for trade activity, they will make use of their vital position and the possibility that has come to hand.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Islamabad Reportedly Considering Change in Afghan Policy

*LD1307185696 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto
to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 13 Jul 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan's government is considering a change in its policy toward Afghanistan.

According to international news agencies, the government of Pakistan has decided to set up a commission to review its Afghan policy. The commission will be assigned to determine the government's position in the light of the new policy.

The report says that in the past, the government of Pakistan followed different policies in relation to the Afghan problem. However, it had now agreed to follow a common policy in this regard. The report adds that Pakistan's government departments have admitted that mistakes were made when Afghan policy was being devised, and relations between the neighboring countries suffered as a result of irresponsible talk by government officials. Two weeks ago, a long discussion was held between (?organizer) of Afghan affairs and the Pakistani authorities concerning the reconstruction of Chaman-Torghodi highway.

Pakistan: Opposition Leader Backs Third Party Mediation on Kashmir

BK1607111796 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 16 Jul 96 p 14

[Report by Tariq Butt and Shakil Sheikh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — US ambassador to India Frank Wisner and leader of the opposition Nawaz Sharif discussed a number of issues, particularly Indo-Pak relations and Kashmir dispute, during their one-hour meeting here on Monday [15 July].

The American diplomat, currently on a visit to Pakistan, called on Nawaz Sharif at Chaudhry Shujjat Hussain's residence, and praised what he termed as the "positive outlook of the new Indian government towards discussing all issues with Pakistan, including Kashmir."

While discussing the impediments in normalisation of Indo-Pak relations, Nawaz Sharif focussed on the core issue of Kashmir as the main obstacle in this way. He underlined that the urgency of resolving the dispute is more so on account of the fact that the people of the occupied Kashmir are being subjected to atrocities at the hands of the Indian occupation forces.

The opposition leader referred to the period when he was prime minister, particularly the meetings that he had with his Indian counterpart, which were aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions.

"The meeting went well," Frank Wisner remarked later. During his visit, he talked with leaders mostly about resumption of Pak-India dialogue. However, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) was another issue that he focussed upon during his meetings with government leaders.

Nawaz Sharif told the NEWS after the meeting that both Pakistan and India should make efforts to resolve the Kashmir dispute. He said there was no harm in trying the third party mediation if it leads to a solution. 'However, talks should be held sincerely, and all issues, including Kashmir, should be included in the agenda."

He said during, his premiership he held several meetings with his Indian counterpart which resulted in a better understanding between the two countries. And added quickly, this process came to standstill when Benazir Bhutto became prime minister. She should have made efforts to carry it forward, he said.

Nawaz Sharif said the atrocities being committed in the occupied Kashmir should end, and conditions should be created for Indo-Pak dialogue. He said there has been negligence on the part of both Benazir Bhutto and India on this count, and that is why people of the two countries are hard-pressed economically. He said both the countries allocate, huge amounts for their defence budgets, adding, there will be prosperity only if all the outstanding issues are resolved through talks and the defence spending is reduced.

The opposition leader said Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda and Foreign Minister I K Gijral have expressed good views that they want talk with Pakistan on all issues including Kashmir, to normalise relations.

He stressed that the Kashmir dispute needs immediate resolution. We have spent so many years in wars, which have not delivered anything to the two countries Rather they left them lagging behind other states, which is not a fair treatment to the people of the two countries.

Pakistan: Students, Teachers Condemn Wisner's Remarks on Kashmir

BK1607074096 Islamabad THE NATION in English 14 Jul 96 p 3

[Report by Ghulam Nabi Khayai]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar — Teachers and students unions, intellectuals forums and other groups from intelligentsia across occupied Kashmir Valley have strongly condemned the US Ambassador in India, Frank Wisner for the observations he made on Kashmir in Pakistan on Thursday [11 July]. While speaking at the command and Staff College in Quetta, Mr. Wisner maintained that recent parliament elections in Held Kashmir were a positive step towards restoring peace. US envoy also made a misleading statement that more and more people participated in these elections and described the polls as "peaceful and fair."

The Kashmir University Teachers Forum has slated the US Ambassador for making an unclad for statement which was not in tune with the facts. A senior teacher said that USA should stop playing the "monkey's role in distribution of cheese between two cats," and should leave Kashmiri people to their fate. He said when Frank Wisner visited Held Kashmir last year, we in the University however felt that he was behaving like an agent of Indian government and not as the independent envoy of a democratic country.

Hurriyat Conference activist also refuted Wisner's saying, that large number of people participated in recent elections in occupied Kashmir. "We have yet to see the face of elections of this magnitude and Mr. Wisner should not (?run) Nelson's eye on this reality," he added. Kashmiri Writers Guild has said that Washington has been playing a mischievous role on Kashmir by her changing sides from time to time. He maintained that America was the greatest enemy of Muslims all over the world. A senior Shia leader said that US Ambassador should however admit that the massacre of Muslims in Palestine, Bosnia, Chechnya and Lebanon has been having indirect backing of the Clinton regime.

An Academy Award winner said on conditions of anonymity that the United States has adopted the most condemnable policy on Kashmir where more than 40,000 people were killed in last seven years. "Washington is more concerned about one of their ordinary citizens who was kidnapped in held Kashmir one year ago but has never said a single word of sympathy for those scores of people killed by the Indian forces," he said. He was also of the opinion that India and Pakistan should resolve Kashmir dispute without any mediation' from the United States for, Washington could play a mischief to keep this pot boiling which suits her political interests in general.

Pakistan: Leghari Rejects Referendum on Corruption Issue

BK1407135096 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 14 Jul 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said corruption is a national problem and the fight against the menace requires a nonpartisan approach. In response to a letter to the president of PML-N [Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz group], Mian Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, the president said the government is fully alive and conscious of the problem and places it high among its priorities for its eradication. The president also reminded that during his speech in parliament in November 1994, he had said the problem of corruption is a national issue which requires nonpartisan approach.

Referring to Mian Nawaz Sharif's proposal of holding referendum on the issue, the president said it would politicize an issue the resolution of which requires united efforts of not only the government and the opposition, but of all the citizens of Pakistan.

Emphasizing the need of honoring the trust the people of Pakistan had reposed in their elected representatives, the president called upon the leadership of the ruling party and the opposition along with other members of parliament to cooperate in setting up a committee of the National Assembly and the Senate to probe deep into the issue of corruption and find remedies to eradicate this evil from society.

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